Bush to give UN last chance on Iraq crisis this week

Story in World, PAGE A11

El Shaddai mounts biggest peace rally

By Dona Pazzibugan and Blanche Rivera

IN THE biggest anti-war rally in the country so far, some 250,000 people, mostly members of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, gathered at the Rizal Park in Manila yesterday to pray for peace.

Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo, Trade

EL SHADDAI/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Town has nothing to show for ties to GMA

By Yolanda S.Fuertes
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

MABUTI PA NUONG SENADORA PA SYA!

BINALONAN, Pangasinan—Who says having a President for a townmate means certain progress for the town? Mayor Ramon Guico Jr., a

TOWN/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, February 24, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 78 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Death awaits GIs, Moro leaders warn

A US Army serviceman chats with a Filipino soldier during the opening of Project Bayanihan in Zamboanga City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Public opinion against combat training for GIs

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE US plan to send at least 1,700 troops to Sulu in "a major combat offensive" to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf has stirred up a public opinion tempest as the United States intensifies preparations for an imminent war with Iraq.

Reports from the New York Times and the Washington Post indicate that the new deployment goes beyond the "joint training exercise" framework under the Balikatan 03-1 approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The new mission differs substantively from the Balikatan 02-1 staged on Basilan Island for six months last year in many ways: (1) it involves considerably more than the 1,300 US troops who took part in the Balikatan 02-1: (2) it shifts the venue and focus of the exercises from Basilan to Sulu, where the Abu Sayyaf bandit group has regrouped after they were routed in Basilan last year; (3) its importance to the United States is underlined by the appointment of Maj. Gen. Joseph Weber, commander of the Marines in the Pacific, as head of the new force; and (4) the operations are open-ended, unlike last year's Balikatan

PUBLIC/ A19

Sulu folk to settle US blood debt

By Julie S. Alipala and Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Moro political leaders warned American soldiers joining combat operations in Sulu that they would be digging their own graves.

"It's like committing suicide, given the historical background of Sulu against the US colonization way back in (the) 1900s," Sulu Rep. Hussein Amin told the INQUIRER.

Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shared the same view, saying the people of Sulu "have not forgotten their horrible experience" under the American soldiers.

In 1906, American soldiers led by Gen. Leonard Wood killed over a thousand Tausugs in Bud Dahu in Patikul, Sulu.

"It was characterized by bloody confrontation, a quagmire of violent situations. It was not something pleasant to recall, and I don't want people to face the same experience." Hussin said.

Amin said many Suluanos were "excited" about the arrival of the US soldiers because "for them, it's their chance to avenge their forefathers who were victims of the Americans' abuses in the past."

Amin and Hussin said that if the national government insisted on pushing through with the joint combat operations, US and Filipino forces would not only face the Abu Sayyaf but also the descendants of those killed in the 1906 massacre.

The warnings of the Moro leaders,

DEATH/ A19

FLOWERS FOR PEACE
FLOWERS BLOOM TO REMIND US TO TOIL FOR INNER PEACE
OUR SMALL AND DISTRESSED WORLD.
BSBT

TROPANG Paltok, the last entry in the street dancing competition in the Panagbenga Flower Festival, displays a peace banner and meter-high marionettes that later danced with children. E.V. ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO'S PANAGBENGA

Peace messages bloom in festival

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The anti-war crusade made its presence felt in this year's Baguio Flower Festival, with some residents hanging flower-bedecked peace signs from buildings and a performance group proposing peace to US President George W. Bush through flowers.

"But it is supposed to be non-political," an aide to Mayor Bernardo Vergara said of the festival, which formally opened here Saturday with thousands of rose petals raining from a helicopter as some 8,000 street dancers made their way through Session Road.

About 50,000 people, mostly visitors from Metro Manila and nearby provinces, watched street dancers from 36 groups, including a contingent of foreign students, perform in this city's annual tourist attraction.

Tropang Paltok, a local performance group, unfurled a banner with the phrase "Flowers for Peace" and the group's rationale: "Flowers bloom to remind us to toil for inner peace and sow the seeds of harmony in our small and distressed world."

Some 20 troupe members, wearing papier-mache masks, carried 12 puppets wearing woven g-strings and *tapis* (skirt). The puppets were made to romp down Session Road.

The troupe was stationed at the very end of the two-hour street dance parade and was almost ignored by spectators.

But children engaged the puppets in a dance. A few American tourists nearby shouted, "Give peace a chance," while several young women, whose faces were painted with a

BAGUIO'S/ A18

Ople allays fear of GMA isolation at NAM summit

By TJ Burgonio

KUALA LUMPUR (via PLDT)—Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople yesterday brushed aside speculations that President Macapagal-Arroyo faced isolation at the 13th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Malaysian capital for her staunch support for a US-led attack on Iraq.

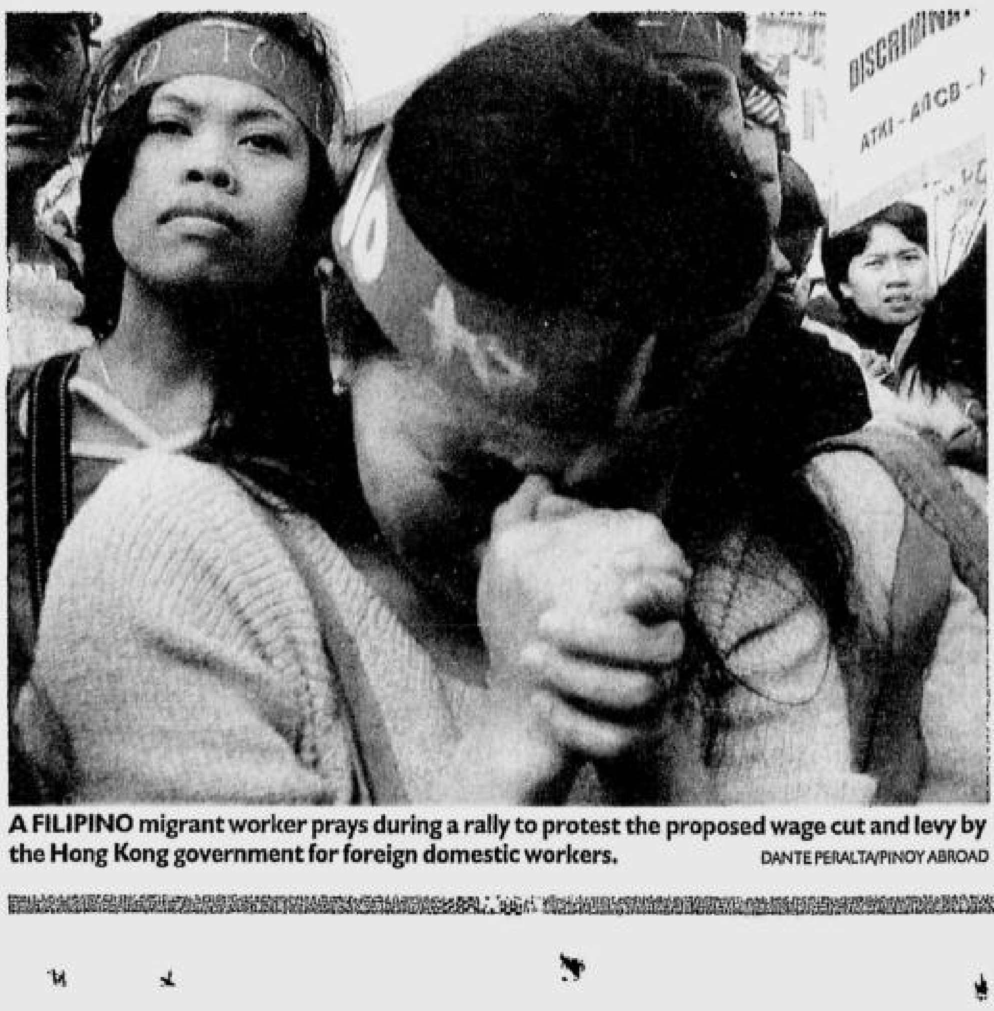
Delegates to the two-day NAM summit representing more than half the world backed strong calls for Iraq to disarm while opposing a US-led attack on Baghdad, and the host nation warned Sunday that an invasion of Iraq would be seen as "a war against Muslims." *(More stories on the Iraq crisis and NAM in The World, Pages A11 and A14)*

Ople, however, said the President's stand was consistent with the NAM's position on the issue. Ms Macapagal, who left on a chartered Hawker 800 plane for Malaysia at 8:30 last night, is expected to reiterate her position on the Iraq crisis when she delivers her seven-minute speech on Monday before the other heads of state at the Putra World Trade Center.

"If you read the position of NAM on the Iraqi issue, it consists mainly of two points. First, peaceful political means should be employed to resolve the question; and second, Iraq must disarm in accordance with the mandate of the UN Security Council resolutions especially 1441," Ople told reporters at the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

"She is not isolated as you can see …

OPLE/ A18



A FILIPINO migrant worker prays during a rally to protest the proposed wage cut and levy by the Hong Kong government for foreign domestic workers. DANTE PERALTA/PINOY ABROAD

Pinoys in HK lead rally vs wage cut

By Cookie Micaller
Contributor

HONG KONG—Thousands of Filipinos yesterday led the biggest protest here in recent years of mostly foreign domestic helpers to oppose a Hong Kong government plan to slash their wages despite pleas from Asian officials.

Wearing red shirts marked "No to wage cut! No to levy!," some 12,000 protesters marched from Victoria Park to the Central Government Office in Central district.

The protesters handed out pamphlets to the public and chanted slogans, raising their voices above the noisy bustle of Sunday traffic and pedestrians. Foreign maids on holiday joined the rally as protesters marched to the office of Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Che-hwa.

"Any form of levy or any cut in the wages of those already struggling to make ends meet is cruelty at its height," said Connie Bragas Regalado, chair of the Asian Migrant Coordinating Body (AMCB). "Let our action warn the Hong Kong government on what they will face if they decide to inflict pain on migrant workers."

The rally was organized by the AMCB, a coalition of foreign domestic workers from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India. Members of Jesus Is Lord (JIL), a Philippine-based Roman Catholic group joined the protest. El Shad-

PINOYS/ A18

Edsa I soldiers viewed Cory as pro-communist

By Col. Hector M. Tarrazona (Ret.)

THE ORIGINAL RAM (Reform the AFP Movement) no longer exists. Reform stands for restore ethics, fair-mindedness, order, righteousness and morale. Since we promised each other to go back to the barracks after the February 1986 exercise, the RAM was meant to be dissolved.

The group was a loose organization without card-carrying members. About a year before the Edsa Revolution on Feb. 22-25, 1986, there were only 30 to 40 officers who went out in the open to actively join the RAM. As a movement, we could not exactly say how many we were because any officer or soldier who believed in the RAM and wanted reforms was considered part of the group. That was the aspect of the RAM's organization that puzzled many observers and got then President Ferdinand Marcos worried.

Many officers and men shared with us what we were fighting for, but they could not take a more visible role because they were not in the right place. We, who were assigned to the Ministry of National Defense, were the more fortunate ones because, somehow, we were under the protective umbrella of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Those who were with the Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, and the Philippine Air Force were the bravest among us because they were easy targets of Malacañang. With all the power and govern-

EDSA/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/24/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

4 soldiers hurt in MILF counterstrike

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil

COTABATO CITY— Four soldiers were critically wounded when Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels attacked a military detachment in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao at dawn yesterday.

"This is still part of the MILF's retaliatory attacks," said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division.

The attack was the latest in an MILF counter-offensive that started last week after government troops overran on Feb. 15 the rebels' Buliok complex stronghold, which straddles the provinces of North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Wounded were Sgt. Nelson Kisanan, Sgt. Tiburcio Libres, Cpl. Melchor de la Cruz and Pfc. Wari Diocolano.

Ando said the rebels attacked the detachment of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bitu at about 3 a.m., triggering a brief firefight.

The detachment is about 3 kilometers from Army division headquarters in Barangay Awang on the highway linking Cotabato City and Isulan in neighboring Sultan Kudarat province. The Army base is within mortar range of Barangay Bitu.

The highway was temporarily closed until 8 a.m. yesterday following the assault.

The attack triggered another wave of evacuations as some 40 families living beside the highway started moving in the direction of this city.

The rebels fired seven rocket-propelled grenades toward the highway detachment and followed it up with automatic fire from assault rifles.

They withdrew after reinforcements arrived from the 6th Infantry Division, backed by four Simba armored vehicles.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, admitted the attackers were MILF guerrillas operating in Datu Odin Sinsuat.

"The war is not yet over, we expect things like this to occur every now and then," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

Ando said another band of MILF guerrillas continues to harass military bases near the town center of Pikit in North Cotabato and in Barangay Mataya, Buldon, Maguindanao.

There were no reported casualties in Pikit and Buldon.

Ando said the attack in Barangay Bitu was the 25th "hit and run" offensive by the MILF following the capture of the Buliok complex.

The other day, MILF rebels launched three attacks in North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur.

A House legislator, meanwhile, has urged Malacañang to exclude the presidential adviser for special concerns, Norberto Gonzales, from participation in any renewed negotiations with the MILF.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico also asked the Palace to stop the ongoing back-channel talks with the secessionists and ensure instead that the renewed talks would be "open, public and transparent at every stage." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1049
ALABANG - 753-1048

GREAT DEALS
3D2N BORACAY P6,999 w/ Airfare & Accomodation
7D Beijing/Shanghai DeLuxe Tour Marco Polo Hotel $795 Via PAL

4D3N	Hongkong/ Shenzhen Fullboard	$167
4D3N	Bangkok	$199
6D5N	Bangkok/Pattaya	$258
4D3N	Saigon	$299
4D3N	Singapore	$298
4D3N	Singapore/ Malaysia/ Indonesia	$365
4D3N	Shanghai	$485
6D5N	Shanghai/Hangshou/ Wuzhen/Suzhou/Wuxi	$498
6D5N	Beijing/Shanghai	$468
7D6N	Shanghai/Hangshou/ Wuzhen/Suzhou/ Wuxi / Nanjing	$528
15D	Affordable Europe Dep March 26, 2003	$1,698

MYSTICAL INDIA DELUXE TOUR
GOLF PACKAGES Kunming-Shanghai-Zhuhai-Bangkok-Phuket

PROMO FARES TO:

Hongkong	$160
Bangkok	200
Singapore	236
Shanghai	346
Seoul	336
Tokyo	385
Sydney	620
Los Angeles	730
San Francisco	730
New York	815
Vancouver	730
Europe	820
Toronto	800

UNION TRAVEL & TOURS
525-3034/45/39
524-8609 or 10
524-3943 or 44
E-mail unontours@eastern.com.ph
PTAA TA-326

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE

3D/2N	HONGKONG-SHENZHEN	$149
4D/3N	HONGKONG-SHENZHEN(fullboad)	$189
4D/3N	BANGKOK	$248
4D/3N	SINGAPORE	$293
5D/4N	SINGAPORE-BANGKOK	$399
4D/3N	KUALA LUMPUR	$398
3D/2N	SAIGON	$303
10DAYS	MAGICAL TURKEY(Dep. April 24, 03)	$1,398
10DAYS	PRE-HOLY WEEK EUROPEAN(March 25, 03)	$1,558
16DAYS	EUROPE PILRIMAGE(Dep.May 13, 03)	$2,988

DOMESTIC PACKAGES

3D/2N	PALAWAN	P 9,999
3D/2N	BORACAY	P 7,100
3D/2N	BANAUE	P 2,950
3D/2N	CEBU	P 8,350
3D/2N	BOHOL	P 8,550
	CORREGIDOR-DAY TOUR	P 1,000
	VILLA ESCUDERO- DAY TOUR	P 910

TICKETS ONLY

HONGKONG	$132
SINGAPORE	$233
BANGKOK	$228
TOKYO	$406
JAKARTA	$396
LOS ANGELES	$736
SAN FRANCISCO	$736
HONOLULU	$621
TORONTO	$786
VANCOUVER	$746
GUAM	$465
SYDNEY	[illegible]
EUROPE	$920

OTHER DOMESTIC PACKAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
GRAJAN INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
1F Queensland Building, #4 Cagayan St., cor. Congressional Ave., Bago Bantay, Quezon City
Tel. #s : 453-1312, 921-0697, 9267054, 9272166, 9267120
Open Mondays to Saturdays only
PTAA
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MIB MOST INCREDIBLE BARGAINS
for only $446.00 per pax
SuperStar LEO
4D3N SANYA & HALONG BAY CRUISE
SPECIAL DEPARTURE on MARCH 23 2003
Based on QUAD sharing · INSIDE CABIN on board SuperStar LEO
INCLUSIVE of Roundtrip airfare via Philippine Airlines
4D3N Cruise to China & Vietnam w· Full board meals
& Roundtrip airport ~ ocean terminal transfers
4D3N $9.99 per pax EXTENSION
@ REGAL RIVERSIDE HOTEL (4★)
3N accommodation based on twin with Daily hotel breakfast
Hotel · Airport transfers & Halfday Hongkong Island & Shenzhen Tour w/ lunch PLUS FREE China Group Visa
5D 4N HONGKONG · CHINA PACKAGES
for only $228.00 per pax
2N HONGKONG & 2N SHENZHEN
DEPARTURE: MARCH 05
2N HONGKONG 1N SHENZHEN & 1N GUANGZHOU
DEPARTURE: MARCH 12
INCLUDES Roundtrip airfare via PAL
Hotel accommodation in Hongkong & China
Meals provided as specified in the itinerary (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
Roundtrip Airport / Hotel transfers
Fully guided Hongkong Island & Shenzhen tour with FREE China Group Visa
BOOK NOW · LIMITED SLOTS ONLY!!!
FOR RESERVATIONS & FURTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE VISIT OR CALL
HORIZON travel & tours inc. IATA
MAIN: 1128 United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila
Tel #s 3060259 - 61 / 6231760 Fax #s 4001503 / 5234029
BINONDO: 345 San Vicente St., Binondo, Manila
Tel #s 3093308 to 10 / 2434515 / 2420179 Fax # 2429123

QualiFlow
FOR BUSINESS TO GROW THE CHOICE IS QUALIFLOW!
WATER STATION · SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT
Products and Services:
• Water Refilling station
• Reverse Osmosis Components (Residential / Commercial)
• Ultraviolet disinfection
• Ozonation • Softeners
• Filters and Cartridges
• System Upgrades
COMPLETE WATER SYSTEM w/ choices of: • Reverse Osmosis 1,000 GPD to 3,000 GPD • Customized Water Treatment System
Visit our head office and showroom at 260 T Morato Ave., Quezon City
Budget Investment Package
Store Design and Consultation
COMPLETE Water System Installation, Testing, and Commissioning
Marketing Assistance and Technical Support
CALL US TODAY! 425-1785 · 931-5297

PACKAGE PROMO
EUROPEAN TOUR PKG $ 1,558
VANCOUVER PACKAGE $ 720

HONGKONG PKG	$139
SINGAPORE PKG	$285
BKK 4D3N+1nite free	$215

TICKET ONLY

HONGKONG	$142
SINGAPORE	$237
BANGKOK	$210
EASTCOAST	$800
WESTCOAST	$670
VANCOUVER	$670
EUROPE	$745
AUSTRALIA	$465

GUAM PACKAGE	$435
AUSTRALIA PKG	$655
SAIGON PACKAGE	$320
SEOUL PACKAGE	$548
KUALA PACKAGE	$388
MACAU PACKAGE	$228
BORACAY	Php 6,412
PALAWAN	Php 6,340
CEBU PKG	Php 4,697

We are open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Discount of $50 for West and East Coast via Northwest
PATISSE INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
TEL. 4007701 / 4007702 / 5236954 Telefax: 4007705
Cell # : 0917-5204012 / 0917-8141658
E-mail : patisse@info.com.ph

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH · Canon · Olivetti · Savin
P16,850. ONLY LIQUID TYPE ENLARGER / REDUCER BEST FOR BUSINESS
P14,999. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 For Personal Office Use
P30,500. ONLY BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER FOR OFFICE / COMM'L USE
SALE
Guaranteed Big Savings!
Katun TONERS & PARTS
For Use in SHARP, MITA, CANON RISO, TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, ETC
Also Available
· Trade-in (Liquid / Powder Copier)
· Repair of most Copier Brands
· Ink for all Computer Printers
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 Mf Jhocson St. Sampaloc, (Beside Nat'l University)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 · 749-8216
Best Offer!
Laminators / Fax
Ringbinders / Cutters
Riso / Gestetner Machines

IMPROVE
your SPEAKING,
WRITING
and READING POWER
Sample Lessons
Mar. 3 -Mon Speechpower-Cubao
Mar. 5 -Wed Speechpower-Taft
Mar. 7 -Fri Speechpower-Espana
Time: 3:00-5:00; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
MARCH TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2003 Classes
Mon to Fri at 2.5 hrs./session
SPEECHPOWER
So different we're rated excellent!
SP-Cubao 9110832; 9110833; 9110834
SP-Espana 7357262; 7357256; 7357312
SP-Taft 5236905;5213601; 5255310
www.speechpower.com.ph

SLIGHTLY USED
EXTENDED SALE!!!
LAPTOPS & Digital Cameras
P 8,499 NEC
MMX INTEL PENTIUM 133 MHz · 6 GB HDD/32 MB RAM · 44 FDD/1 USB PORT · PCMCIA SLOT · INTERNAL MODEM · INFRA-RED NETWORK READY
P 3,500
350,000 PIXELS · 3X OPTICAL ZOOM · 32 MB MEM CARD
OTHER BRANDS AVAILABLE
WE ALSO BUY USED LAPTOPS ANY BRAND!!!
Please visit our showroom at: Unit 2303 23rd Floor, Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Doña Julia Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel.Nos.: 687-1024 / 687-6507
FROM JAPAN

Authorized sub-dealer
Panasonic PABX
Beware of PABX RECONDITION
1 BRAND NEW PANASONIC PABX MAIN CONTROL UNIT INITIAL (3) LINES BY (8) LOCAL CAPACITY
P13,900
(6) TEL. LINES BY (16/24) LOCALS / (12) TEL. LINES BY 64 -500 LOCALS
intel Communication Corp.
752 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
733-2549 · 736-1206 · 733-0697
We Also Install: Data Structural Cabling

LOWEST PRICE IN THE PHILIPPINES!
PABX PACKAGE DEAL
P8,999
Also Available: CCTV
B&W DOME CAMERA
P3,800
Package Consist of PABX-NTT from Japan: 1 Unit- Main Control 308
3 Units - Key Phones
NTTC TELECOM PRODUCTS
532-2008 / 532-2019 Fax 532-2015 after office hours (718-2233)
Cell: 0919-2706042 www.ntt-com.com

SEMINAR ON MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA
When: March 8, 2003 (SATURDAY) 10 am to 1pm
Where: Conference Center, Function Room A, 5th Flr., Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Seminar Fee: P 600 inclusive of initial assessment
(bring a copy of resume and transcript of records)
Register now at 437-0246 or 437-1186
DIAZ KEINERT MIGRATION AGENCY
3F, Building 136, Katipunan Road
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City

LARGE FORMAT FULL-COLOR PRINTING
AS LOW AS ₱20.00 / Ft²*
FOR
ADVERTISING BILLBOARDS, FLEET GRAPHICS, BANNERS, WALL MURALS, BACKLIT DISPLAYS & ALL OTHER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR APPLICATIONS
FROM THE PIONEERS IN DIGITAL PRINTING.
ORDER TODAY! CALL THE FOURTH DIMENSION
TEL NOS. - 723-07-61, 723-07-62, 721-66-23
LOOK FOR ARLENE
*CONDITIONS APPLY CALL FOR DETAILS

HONGKONG from $ 169 VIA PAL 3D/2N
BANGKOK from $ 258 VIA PAL/TG/LH 4D/3N +1 NIGHT FREE
SINGAPORE from $ 298 VIA PAL/SQ 4D/3N +1 NIGHT FREE
Las Palmas TOURS AND TRAVEL
MEMBER PTAA IATA
MANILA OFFICE
Tel.# 400-5916 TO 19 · 5237786 · 5237797 · 523-6610 · 5255167 · 5236402 · 5236884 · 5236836 · 5239451
MAKATI OFFICE
Tel.# 8401363 to 65 · 8171223 · 810-0107 to 08 · 810-0226 to 27
WEBSITE: www.laspalmastours.com
All major credit cards are accepted · We offer 3/6/12 Months installment plans

INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Bldg. 4 Philcrest Compound Km. 23 West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City 1770
Tel. nos : 809-2776/809-2745/809-2730 · Toll Free : 1-800-1888-4622
Fax no. : 809-1108 website : http://www.inca.cjb.net
E-mail incaphil@edsamail.com.ph
BUY FILIPINO
FOR SALE ODOR CONTROLLED COMPOST ACTIVATOR
ACTIVATOR
INCA Waste Disposal Bins/INCA Compost Bins

NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	LENGTH
TC300	43.25"	28.5"	41.75"
FLCN 1	30.00"	28.50"	41.75"
ROTARY COMPOST BIN	39.00"	30.00"ø	-----
RT 200	39.00"	25.00"ø	-----
TC60 DS X3	40.00"	15.00	47.00"

Inca waste bins are easy to clean and maintain, resistant to corrosion by acids and salts, does not chip, crack, dent or rust. And designed to blend with any surrounding.
Call INCA Plastics Philippines for cost estimates and arrangement for company logo printing. Different colors avalable.
We also sell water tanks, drums, bedliners, trays, crates, road barriers, cones, grease traps, and beer kegs
WASTE SEGREGATION AT SOURCE COMPLIANT WITH R.A 9003

HONGKONG
FULLBOARD 4D 3N (1 NITE SHENZHEN)
$189 PANDA NANFANG
$196 B.P. INT'L AMBASSADOR
$209 PARK / R.P.H.W.
SINGAPORE $318
BANGKOK $248
TICKET ONLY:

	US $		US $		US $
HONGKONG	155	KUALA	393	HONOLULU	625
BANGKOK	223	TAIPEI	289	LAX/SFO	740
SINGAPORE	233	XIAMEN	265	NEW YORK	832
OSAKA	379	JAKARTA	355	VANCOUVER	740
TOKYO	387	SAIGON	245	SYDNEY	482
SEOUL	333			EUROPE	735

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL:
MAGELLAN WORLD TRAVEL, INC. PTAA
TELS: 522-4321 · 521-9381 · 526-5652 to 53 · 522-4809 to 11
FAX Nos.: 521-0190 · 526-5658

HONG KONG

PANDA 4D/3N	PAL	$185
FULL BOARD 28 FEB. DEP	CX	$190
HKG + SHENZHEN + BKK	5D VIA CX	$288
HKG + SHEN + SIN	5D VIA CX	$308
HKG + SHEN + SIN + BKK	7D VIA CX	$440
6 COUNTRIES	8D VIA CX	$505
7 COUNTRIES	9D VIA CX	$658

BANGKOK

VIA KUWAIT AIRWAYS DAILY EXCEPT TUE & SUN	4D/3N	$208
VIA TG 625 / TUE,FRI,SUN DEP.	4D/3N	$238
BKK + CHIANGMAI	6D/5N	$378
BKK + CHIANGRAI	6D/5N	$398
BKK + PHUKET	6D/5N	$438
BKK + SIN	7D/6N VIA TG	$434
BKK + SGN MARCO POLO HOTEL	5D/4N VIA TG	$435
BKK + KUL	7D/6N VIA TG	$463

SINGAPORE	4D/3N VIA PAL	$298
STAY 4 NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF 3	VIA PAL ROYAL PEACOCK HOTEL	$308
SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA 3 CITIES/DAILY DEP. / VIA PAL	4D/3N	$350
SHANGHAI	4D/3N VIA PR	$489
BEIJING	4D/3N VIA PR	$570
XIAMEN	4D/3N	$395
KOREA	VIA PR	$520
TAIPEI	VIA CI	$420
KUALA LUMPUR	VIA MH	$370
SAIGON	MARCO POLO HTL / VIA PR	$305
AUSTRALIA	4D/3N VIA QF	$585
VANCOUVER CITY PACKAGE PROMO / VIA CI	W/ 3 Nights Hotel, Airfare, Lunch, Citytour, Etc	$738

BUDGET AIRFARES

	OW	RT		OW	RT		OW	RT
HONGKONG	[illegible]	150	TAIPEI	14[illegible]	28[illegible]	LOS ANGELES	390	668
SINGAPORE	170	225	KUALA	208	31[illegible]	SEATTLE	390	735
BANGKOK	180	188	MACAU	150	20[illegible]	NEW YORK	430	805
SAIGON	235	240	JAKARTA	310	39[illegible]	NEWARK	450	793
OSAKA	280	380	TELAVIV	560	1100	CHICAGO	430	805
NARITA	270	365	GUAM	330	380	VANCOUVER	390	708
NAGOYA	240	365	SAN FRANCISCO	[illegible]	72[illegible]	TORONTO	430	780
SEOUL	170	[illegible]				LONDON	350	727

TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
MAKATI: 753-3388 / 3005 / 1121 · 817-1566 / 1571 · 894-0974
Fax: 753-5588 · E-mail: tnt_anee@abacus.com.ph
Text your queries to (0917) 791-8236 / (0920)3056427
MANDALUYONG: 747-1284 · 531-0212 · 747-1275 · 747-3296

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/24/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

4 soldiers hurt in MILF counterstrike

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil

COTABATO CITY— Four soldiers were critically wounded when Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels attacked a military detachment in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao at dawn yesterday.

"This is still part of the MILF's retaliatory attacks," said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division.

The attack was the latest in an MILF counter-offensive that started last week after government troops overran on Feb. 15 the rebels' Buliok complex stronghold, which straddles the provinces of North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Wounded were Sgt. Nelson Kisanan, Sgt. Tiburcio Libres, Cpl. Melchor de la Cruz and Pfc. Wari Diocolano.

Ando said the rebels attacked the detachment of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bitu at about 3 a.m., triggering a brief firefight.

The detachment is about 3 kilometers from Army division headquarters in Barangay Awang on the highway linking Cotabato City and Isulan in neighboring Sultan Kudarat province. The Army base is within mortar range of Barangay Bitu.

The highway was temporarily closed until 8 a.m. yesterday following the assault.

The attack triggered another wave of evacuations as some 40 families living beside the highway started moving in the direction of this city.

The rebels fired seven rocket-propelled grenades toward the highway detachment and followed it up with automatic fire from assault rifles.

They withdrew after reinforcements arrived from the 6th Infantry Division, backed by four Simba armored vehicles.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, admitted the attackers were MILF guerrillas operating in Datu Odin Sinsuat.

"The war is not yet over, we expect things like this to occur every now and then," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

Ando said another band of MILF guerrillas continues to harass military bases near the town center of Pikit in North Cotabato and in Barangay Mataya, Buldon, Maguindanao.

There were no reported casualties in Pikit and Buldon.

Ando said the attack in Barangay Bitu was the 25th "hit and run" offensive by the MILF following the capture of the Buliok complex.

The other day, MILF rebels launched three attacks in North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur.

A House legislator, meanwhile, has urged Malacañang to exclude the presidential adviser for special concerns, Norberto Gonzales, from participation in any renewed negotiations with the MILF.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico also asked the Palace to stop the ongoing back-channel talks with the secessionists and ensure instead that the renewed talks would be "open, public and transparent at every stage." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI 845-0886 / 753-1049
ALABANG 753-1048

QualiFlow
WATER STATION SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT
FOR BUSINESS TO GROW THE CHOICE IS QUALIFLOW!
Products and Services:
• Water Refilling station
• Reverse Osmosis Components (Residential / Commercial)
• Ultraviolet disinfection
• Ozonation • Softeners
• Filters and Cartridges
• System Upgrades
COMPLETE WATER SYSTEM w/ choices of:
• Reverse Osmosis 1,000 GPD to 3,000 GPD
• Customized Water Treatment System
Visit our head office and showroom at 2601 Morato Ave., Quezon City
Complete Water Filtration and Purification
Budget Investment Package
Store Design and Consultation
COMPLETE Water System Installation, Testing, and Commissioning
Marketing Assistance and Technical Support
CALL US TODAY! 425-1785 • 931-5297

SLIGHTLY USED FROM JAPAN
EXTENDED SALE!!!
LAPTOPS & Digital Cameras
P 8,499
NEC
INTEL PENTIUM 133 MHz
1 GB HDD/32 MB RAM
1.44 FDD / USB PORT
PCMCIA SLOT
EXTERNAL MODEM
INFRA-RED NETWORK READY
P 3,500
350 000 PIXELS
3X OPTICAL ZOOM
32 MB MEM CARD
OTHER BRANDS AVAILABLE
WE ALSO BUY USED LAPTOPS ANY BRAND!!!
Please visit our showroom at
Unit 2203 22nd Floor, Intel-Global Corporate Center
#3 Doña Julia Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel.Nos.: 687-1024 / 687-6507

Authorized sub-dealer
Panasonic PABX
Beware of PABX RECONDITION
1 BRAND NEW PANASONIC PABX MAIN CONTROL UNIT INITIAL (3) LINES BY (8) LOCAL CAPACITY
P13,900
(6) TEL. LINES BY (16/24) LOCALS / (12) TEL. LINES BY 64 -500 LOCALS
intel Communication Corp.
752 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
733-2549 • 736-1206 • 733-0697
We Also Install Data Structure Cabling

GREAT DEALS
3D2N BORACAY P6,999 w/ Airfare & Accomodation
4D3N Hongkong/Shenzhen Fullboard $167
4D3N Bangkok $199
6D5N Bangkok/Pattaya $258
4D3N Saigon $299
4D3N Singapore $298
4D3N Singapore/Malaysia/Indonesia $365
4D3N Shanghai $485
6D5N Shanghai/Hangshou/Wuzhen/Suzhou/Wuxi $498
6D5N Beijing/Shanghai $468
7D6N Shanghai/Hangshou/Wuzhen/Suzhou/Wuxi / Nanjing $528
15D Affordable Europe $1,698
MYSTICAL INDIA DELUXE TOUR
GOLF PACKAGES Kunming-Shanghai-Zhuhai-Bangkok-Phuket
7D Beijing/Shanghai DeLuxe Tour Marco Polo Hotel $795 Via PAL
PROMO FARES TO:

Hongkong	$160
Bangkok	200
Singapore	236
Shanghai	346
Seoul	336
Tokyo	385
Sydney	620
Los Angeles	730
San Francisco	730
New York	815
Vancouver	730
Europe	820
Toronto	800

UNION TRAVEL & TOURS
525-3034/45/39
524-8609 or 10
524-3943 or 44
E-mail unionours@eastern.com.ph
PTAA

PACKAGE PROMO
EUROPEAN TOUR PKG $ 1,558
VANCOUVER PACKAGE $ 720
HONGKONG PKG $139
SINGAPORE PKG $285
BKK 4D3N+1nite free $215
GUAM PACKAGE $435
AUSTRALIA PKG $655
SAIGON PACKAGE $320
SEOUL PACKAGE $548
KUALA PACKAGE $388
MACAU PACKAGE $228
TICKET ONLY

HONGKONG	$142
SINGAPORE	$237
BANGKOK	$210
EASTCOAST	$800
WESTCOAST	$670
VANCOUVER	$670
EUROPE	$745
AUSTRALIA	$465

BORACAY Php 6,412
PALAWAN Php 6,340
CEBU PKG Php 4,697
We are open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Discount of $50 for West and East Coast via Northwest
PATISSE INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
TEL. 4007701 / 4007702 / 5236954 Telefax: 4007705
Cell #: 0917-5204012 / 0917-8141658
E-mail: patisse@info.com.ph

LOWEST PRICE IN THE PHILIPPINES!
PABX PACKAGE DEAL
P8,999
Also Available:
CCTV
B&W DOME CAMERA
P3,800
Package Consist of PABX-NTT from Japan: 1 Unit- Main Control 308
3 Units - Key Phones
NTTC TELECOM PRODUCTS
532-2008 / 532-2019 Fax 532-2015 after office hours (718-2233)
Cell: 0919-2706042 www.ntt-com.com

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE

3D/2N	HONGKONG-SHENZHEN	$149
4D/3N	HONGKONG-SHENZHEN(fullboad)	$189
4D/3N	BANGKOK	$248
4D/3N	SINGAPORE	$293
5D/4N	SINGAPORE-BANGKOK	$399
4D/3N	KUALA LUMPUR	$398
3D/2N	SAIGON	$303
10DAYS	MAGICAL TURKEY(Dep. April 24, 03)	$1,398
10DAYS	PRE-HOLY WEEK EUROPEAN(March 25, 03)	$1,558
16DAYS	EUROPE PILRIMAGE(Dep.May 13, 03)	$2,988

DOMESTIC PACKAGES

3D/2N PALAWAN	P 9,999
3D/2N BORACAY	P 7,100
3D/2N BANAUE	P 2,950
3D/2N CEBU	P 8,350
3D/2N BOHOL	P 8,550
CORREGIDOR-DAY TOUR	P 1,000
VILLA ESCUDERO- DAY TOUR	P 910

TICKETS ONLY
HONGKONG SINGAPORE BANGKOK TOKYO JAKARTA LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO HONOLULU TORONTO VANCOUVER GUAM SYDNEY EUROPE
OTHER DOMESTIC PACKAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
GRAJAN INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
1F Queensland Building, #4 Cagayan St., cor. Congressional Ave., Bago Bantay, Quezon City
Tel. #s : 453-1312, 921-0697, 9267054, 9272166, 9267120
Open Mondays to Saturdays only
PTAA PHILTOA
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
P16,850. ONLY LIQUID TYPE ENLARGER / REDUCER BEST FOR BUSINESS
P14,999. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 For Personal Office Use
P 30,500. ONLY BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER FOR OFFICE / COMM'L USE
SALE
Guaranteed Big Savings!
Katun TONERS & PARTS
For Use in SHARP, MITA, CANON RISO, TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, ETC
Also Available
• Trade-in (Liquid / Powder Copier)
• Repair of most Copier Brands
• Internal Computer Printers
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg 550 Mf Jhocson St Sampaloc, (Beside Nat'l University)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
Best Offer! Laminators / Fax Ringbinders / Cutters Riso / Gestetner Machines

SEMINAR ON MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA
When: March 8, 2003 (SATURDAY) 10 am to 1pm
Where: Conference Center, Function Room A, 5th Flr., Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Seminar Fee: P 600 inclusive of initial assessment
(bring a copy of resume and transcript of records)
Register now at 437-0246 or 437-1186
DIAZ KEINERT MIGRATION AGENCY
3F, Building 136, Katipunan Road
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City

HONGKONG
FULLBOARD 4D 3N (1 NITE SHENZHEN)
$189 PANDA NANFANG
$196 BP INT'L AMBASSADOR
$209 PARK RPHW
SINGAPORE $318
BANGKOK $248
TICKET ONLY:

	US $		US $		US $
HONGKONG	155	KUALA	393	HONOLULU	625
BANGKOK	223	TAIPEI	289	LAX/SFO	740
SINGAPORE	233	XIAMEN	265	NEW YORK	832
OSAKA	379	JAKARTA	355	VANCOUVER	740
TOKYO	387	SAIGON	245	SYDNEY	482
SEOUL	333			EUROPE	735

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL:
MAGELLAN WORLD TRAVEL, INC. PTAA
TELS: 522-4321 • 521-9381 • 526-5652 to 53 • 522-4809 to 11
FAX Nos.: 521-0190 • 526-5650

MIB MOST INCREDIBLE BARGAINS
for only $446.00 per pax
SuperStar LEO
4D3N SANYA & HALONG BAY CRUISE
SPECIAL DEPARTURE on MARCH 23 2003
Based on QUAD sharing; INSIDE CABIN on board SuperStar LEO
INCLUSIVE of Roundtrip airfare via Philippine Airlines
4D3N Cruise to China & Vietnam Full board meals
& Roundtrip airport ocean terminal transfers
4D3N $99.99 per pax EXTENSION
@ REGAL RIVERSIDE HOTEL (4★)
3N accommodation based on twin with Daily hotel breakfast
Hotel - Airport transfers & Halfday Hongkong Island & Shenzhen Tour w/ lunch PLUS FREE China Group Visa
5D 4N HONGKONG - CHINA PACKAGES
for only $228.00 per pax
2N HONGKONG & 2N SHENZHEN
DEPARTURE: MARCH 05
2N HONGKONG 1N SHENZHEN & 1N GUANGZHOU
DEPARTURE: MARCH 12
INCLUDES Roundtrip airfare via PAL
Hotel accommodation in Hongkong & China
Meals provided as specified in the itinerary (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
Roundtrip Airport / Hotel transfers
Fully guided Hongkong Island & Shenzhen tour with FREE China Group Visa
BOOK NOW - LIMITED SLOTS ONLY!!!
FOR RESERVATIONS & FURTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE VISIT OR CALL
HORIZON travel & tours inc. IATA
MAIN: 1128 United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila
Tel #s 3060259 - 61 / 5231760 Fax #s 4001503 / 5234029
BINONDO: 345 San Vicente St., Binondo, Manila
Tel #s 3093308 to 10 / 2434515 / 2429179 Fax # 2429123

IMPROVE your SPEAKING, WRITING and READING POWER
Sample Lessons
Mar. 3 -Mon Speechpower-Cubao
Mar. 5 -Wed Speechpower-Taft
Mar. 7 -Fri Speechpower-Espana
Time: 3:00-5:00; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
MARCH TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2003 Classes
Mon to Fri at 2.5 hrs./session
SP SPEECHPOWER
So different we're rated excellent!
SP-Cubao 9110832; 9110833; 9110834
SP-Espana 7357262; 7357256; 7357312
SP-Taft 5236905;5213601; 5255310
www.speechpower.com.ph

LARGE FORMAT FULL-COLOR PRINTING
AS LOW AS ₱20.00 / Ft²*
FOR
ADVERTISING BILLBOARDS, FLEET GRAPHICS, BANNERS, WALL MURALS, BACKLIT DISPLAYS & ALL OTHER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR APPLICATIONS
FROM THE PIONEERS IN DIGITAL PRINTING.
ORDER TODAY! CALL THE FOURTH DIMENSION
TEL NOS. - 723-07-61, 723-07-62, 721-66-23
LOOK FOR ARLENE
*CONDITIONS APPLY CALL FOR DETAILS

HONGKONG from $ 169 VIA PAL 3D/2N
BANGKOK from $ 258 VIA PAL/TG/LH 4D/3N +1 NIGHT FREE
SINGAPORE from $ 298 VIA PAL/SQ 4D/3N +1 NIGHT FREE
Las Palmas TOURS AND TRAVEL
MEMBER PTAA IATA
MANILA OFFICE
Tel.# 400-5916 TO 19
• 5237786 • 5237797 • 523-6810
• 5255167 • 5236402 • 5236884
• 5236836 • 5239451
MAKATI OFFICE
Tel.# 8401363 to 65
• 8171223
810-0107 to 08
• 810-0226 to 27
WEBSITE: www.laspalmastours.com
All major credit cards are accepted • We offer 3/6/12 Months installment plans

HONG KONG

PANDA 4D/3N	PAL	$185
FULL BOARD 28 FEB. DEP	CX	$190
HKG + SHENZHEN + BKK	5D VIA CX	$288
HKG + SHEN + SIN	5D VIA CX	$308
HKG + SHEN + SIN + BKK	7D VIA CX	$440
6 COUNTRIES	8D VIA CX	$505
7 COUNTRIES	9D VIA CX	$658

BANGKOK

VIA KUWAIT AIRWAYS DAILY EXCEPT TUE & SUN	4D/3N	$208
VIA TG 625 / TUE,FRI,SUN DEP	4D/3N	$238
BKK + CHIANGMAI	6D/5N	$378
BKK + CHIANGRAI	6D/5N	$398
BKK + PHUKET	6D/5N	$438
BKK + SIN	7D/6N VIA TG	$434
BKK + SGN MARCO POLO HOTEL	5D/4N VIA TG	$435
BKK + KUL	7D/6N VIA TG	$463

SINGAPORE	4D/3N VIA PAL	$298
STAY 4 NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF 3	VIA PAL	$308
SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA 3 CITIES/DAILY DEP. / VIA PAL	4D/3N	$350
SHANGHAI	4D/3N VIA PR	$489
BEIJING	4D/3N VIA PR	$570
XIAMEN	4D/3N	$395
KOREA		$520
TAIPEI		$420
KUALA LUMPUR		$370
SAIGON	MARCO POLO	$305
AUSTRALIA	4D/3N VIA QF	$585
VANCOUVER CITY PACKAGE PROMO	W/ 3 Nights Hotel, Airfare Lunch, Citytour	$738

BUDGET FAIR FARES

	OW	RT		OW	RT		OW	RT
HONGKONG		150	TAIPEI			LOS ANGELES	390	668
SINGAPORE	170	225	KUALA			SEATTLE	390	735
BANGKOK	180	188	MACAU		[illegible]	NEW YORK	430	805
SAIGON	235		JAKARTA		390	NEWARK	450	793
OSAKA	280		TELAVIV	680	1100	CHICAGO	430	805
NARITA		385	GUAM	330	380	VANCOUVER	390	[illegible]
NAGOYA	240	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	TORONTO	430	[illegible]
SEOUL						LONDON	350	[illegible]

TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS INC
MAKATI: 753-3388 / 3005 / 1121 • 817-1566 / 1571 • 894-0974
Fax: 753-5588 • E-mail. tnl_anee@abacus.com.ph
Text your queries to (0917) 791-8236 / (0920)3056427
MANDALUYONG: 747-1284 • 531-0212 • 747-1275 • 747-3296

INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Bldg., 4 Philcrest Compound Km. 23 West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City 1770
Tel. nos. 809-2776/809-2745/809-2730 • Toll Free : 1-800-1888-4622
Fax no. : 809-1108 website : http://www.inca.cjb.net
E-mail : incaphil@edsamail.com.ph
BUY FILIPINO
FOR SALE ODOR CONTROLLED COMPOST ACTIVATOR
ACTIVATOR
INCA Waste Disposal Bins/INCA Compost Bins

NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	LENGTH
TC300	43.25"	28.5"	41.75"
FLCN 1	30.00"	28.50"	41.75"
ROTARY COMPOST BIN	39.00"	30.00"ø	-----
RT 200	39.00"	25.00"ø	-----
TC60 DS X3	40.00"	15.00	47.00"

Inca waste bins are easy to clean and maintain, resistant to corrosion by acids and salts, does not chip, crack, dent or rust. And designed to blend with any surrounding.
Call INCA Plastics Philippines for cost estimates and arrangement for company logo printing. Different colors avalable.
We also sell water tanks, drums, bedliners, trays, crates, road barriers, cones, grease traps, and beer kegs
WASTE SEGREGATION AT SOURCE COMPLIANT WITH R.A 9003

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Salamat book bares struggle, hopes

Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SALAMAT HASHIM

COTABATO CITY—How far can Salamat Hashim go in his struggle to provide the Bangsamoro people the independence they have been longing for?

Will he succeed as leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front where his forebears have failed for centuries? Can he escape the fate of his predecessor, Nur Misuari, who is now languishing in jail, facing rebellion charges?

These are just some of the questions raised by sympathizers of the MILF leader, who is perceived to be in the "twilight years" of his struggle.

'Referendum'

As though it had been written precisely to allay these fears and apprehensions, a book titled "Referendum" by the 65-year-old Hashim stresses that even if he died, the ideals he had stood for and fought will continue to live in the hearts and minds of his people.

The book is a compilation of Salamat's public statements coursed through MILF fora and media interviews.

Salamat was a librarian in the erstwhile undivided province of Cotabato now made up of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and North and South Cotabato. Followers say he could have found his mission in the books that surrounded him, and in subsequent thorough studies that molded his insights.

The recent fighting in Pikit, North Cotabato, led to the capture of Salamat's quarters and other vital MILF facilities. This added in no small measure to what was considered a big victory for government forces.

Criticism

But the jubilation was met with criticism from cause-oriented groups and human rights advocates.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan described the military offensive as a "political cosmetic" to advance the hidden agenda of some officials eyeing the 2004 election. Others suspected that the bloody incident was a ploy to deviate public attention from the country's economic woes.

Salamat has since been in hiding, and MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu has dared the government to "catch him if you can."

Negotiations

What is in store for the government's peace negotiations with the MILF? Were it not for the Pikit hostilities, the talks would have resumed early this month.

In the words of Salamat: "There is no substitute to a peaceful solution."

He has repeatedly urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to fulfill her commitments regarding the Moro insurgency. Although it is peace that the MILF sought, as he says in his book, "we oppose the use of the peace process to perpetuate colonial rule over other people and deprive them of the universal right to freedom and self-determination."

"Referendum" shows that three years before the 2000 "all-out war" waged by President Joseph Estrada against the MILF, Salamat, as its central committee chair warned the government: "We do not want peace used to cover a genocidal campaign against religions and cultural groups."

In the book, Salamat also "assures" the government that if the MILF fails to gain independence through peaceful means, his people will continue to fight the government "for the next thousand years."

travelling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations

EUROPE MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
•March 17-29 US$ 1,795.00
•April 11-23 & Apr 25-May7 US$ 1,999.00
Highlights:
Lisbon-Santarem-Fatima-Salamanca-Avila-Madrid-Zaragoza-Lourdes-Avignon-Monte Carlo-Nice-Pisa-Florence-Assisi-Rome

KOREA Cherry Blossoms Festival
•April 16-20
US$ 655.00
Highlights:
Baekri Road-Mt. Maisan, Mt. Mai Towers, Everland Theme Park, Seoul City Tour & Shopping at Dongdaemun & Itaewon

SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA w/ Paris
•May 16-Jun01
US$ 2,980.00
Highlights:
Copenhagen-Gotenburg-Oslo-Karlstad-Stockholm-Baltic Sea Cruise-Helsinki-St. Petersburg-Novgoro-Moscow-Paris

PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC.
Tels 688-8658 • 688-8846 • 687-2694 Fax 688-8846

dream big. fly high.

2003Calendar

1 Asean Cruise sails 30Mar
2 6D Beijing/Shanghai Apr11-15
3 12N Euro Cruise sails 11Apr
4 7N US Caribbean 12Apr
5 7N Sail in California 12Apr
6 7N Alaska Cruise 11May
7 12Nites Med Cruise 24May

wouldn't it be nice to hold a 3530Nokia in Singapore? Curious? Call us.

PACKAGES

Package	Rates
INT'L (USD)	
Hongkong	$ 199
Bangkok	$ 352
Shanghai	$ 435
Australia	$ 669
LOCAL (Php)	
P. Galera	P 2640
Cebu	P 7936
Baguio	P 6633
Boracay	P 8646
Palawan	P 10716

KENSTAR Travel Corporation
Tel. :524 1211 to 14
E-mail : kenstar@pacific.net.ph
www.kenstartravel.com

Summer Fun, Nature & Leisure

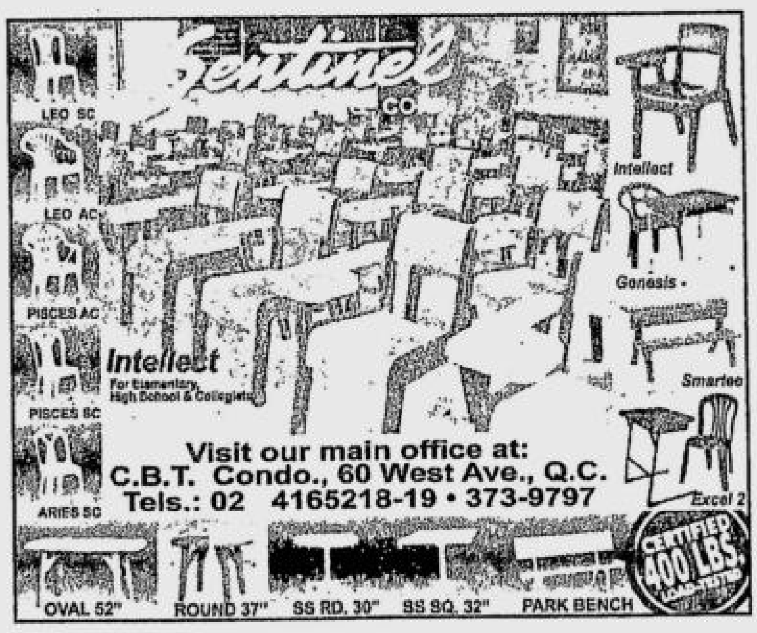
P 700 per person overnight with meals

Perfect Venue for:
*DAYTOURS UP TO 2,000 GUESTS
*COMPANY SUMMER OUTINGS
*SEMINARS OR RETREATS

VARIED LEISURE AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES
-Basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis courts, mountain trek
-Skating rink, bicycle rides, billiards, mahjong, darts
-Relaxing view of a koi pond
-Lagoon for boating and fishing
EXCITING SWIMMING POOLS
-Adult, kiddie and Olympic size pools with giant slides
CONFERENCE FACILITIES
Spacious halls and pavilion complete with audio-visual equipment
LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATION
-Cozy apartelle, lanai, poolside rooms and dormitory type rooms
-Airy gazebos, nipa huts and cottages

ANNE RAQUEL'S RESORT
Olongapo City , Subic
where nature speaks closest to your heart

FOR OCULAR VISITS AND INQUIRIES, CALL
TEL NOS. 9291269 or 9226480 | FAX NO. 9291223
email: anraq@tri-isys.com • www.anneraquel'sresort.com



Sentinel

Visit our main office at:
C.B.T. Condo., 60 West Ave., Q.C.
Tels.: 02 4165218-19 • 373-9797

CERTIFIED 400 LBS.

CITYLAND PRICE BUSTER

NO INTEREST
NO DOWN
NO KIDDING

CITYLAND MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER
7652 Dela Rosa St., Pio del Pilar, Makati City
32- Flr. Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium

Construction on-going

OWN A UNIT for as low as P6,800 monthly
direct buyers only

812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888
241-0140 • 813-2760 • 241-1894
892-6150

www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net

☑ VIRUS REMOVAL WITHOUT REFORMATTING YOUR HARDDISK
☑ ADDITIONAL ONE MONTH FREE FOR ONE-YEAR MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

SERVICE HOTLINE
303-8888

PCMed
COMPUTER TECHNICIANS

- ON-SITE
- FAST
- EXPERIENCED
- GUARANTEED
- AFFORDABLE

SPECIAL PACKAGES PROMO

HONG KONG
5D/4N HONGKONG-SHENZEN FULL BOARD
4D/3N HONGKONG DAY TRIP SHENZEN $218
5D/4N HONGKONG-GUANZHOU FULL BOARD

BANGKOK
$213 $222 $230

SINGAPORE
$297 $302 $292

SINGAPORE MALAYSIA INDONESIA
$360

BUDGET FARES

HONGKONG	$ 145	HONOLULU	$ 625
BANGKOK	$ 190	SYDNEY	$ 590
SINGAPORE	$ 233	NEW YORK	$ 835
VANCOUVER	$ 740	NAGOYA	$ 530
OSAKA	$ 380	TAIPEI	$ 293
TOKYO	$ 390	SEOUL	$ 390
LAX/ SFO	$ 740	TORONTO	$ 790

MACAU HONGKONG SHENZHEN
$318

HKK / BKK OR BKK / SGN
$438

SINGAPORE BANGKOK
$398

SINGAPORE KUALA
$538

SANS TRAVEL & TOURS
TEL.# 4398740/4388227/4398700/0139508/0139580
CELL. 0917-8919788, 0917-4743362, 0917-4510203
E-MAIL:sans_trvl@pacific.net.ph / P.Tuazon,Cubao,Q.C.

PACKAGE TOURS

EUROPE PACKAGE
15D/14N $1698
HONGKONG PACKAGE
4D/3N $215
BANGKOK PACKAGE
4D/3N $248
SINGAPORE PACKAGE
4D/3N $278
CRUISE PACKAGE
4D/3N $446

TICKET FARES

SAN FRANCISCO	$730
LOS ANGELES	$730
NEW YORK	$828
HONOLULU	$616
VANCOUVER	$738
TORONTO	$798
SYDNEY	$609
MELBOURNE	$609
LONDON	$930
PARIS	$930
ROME	$930
HONGKONG	$171
BANGKOK	$226
SINGAPORE	$236

*All prices are subject to change without prior notice.

ArcheMagnon Travel & Tours
1417 Perez St., Paco, Manila
Tel. 522-7201, 400-5770, 522-5437
email: archemagnontravel@hotmail.com

WE SELL / RENT
EXHIBIT & PROMO SYSTEMS

MADE IN SWEDEN

TRANSAD ADVERTISING INC.
1015 Zobel Roxas St., Makati City
Tels: 522-7644 / 400-9987 Tel/Fax: 831-4374

The First Name In Fiberglass Canopy
ALPHA

WITH BUILT-IN ROOF RACK AND SUNROOF

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY BY PRICEY ROOFTOP CANOPIES

NO-DRILL FITTING

BUNDLED WITH LOTS OF MONEY-SAVING EXTRAS...
DESIGNER CLAMP eliminates totally the need for drilling
CONCEALED GUTTER for leak-proof and drip-free interiors.
REAR GATE uses double side locking system

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES: TOP-LOAD CARRIER AND REAR VIEW MIRROR
CURVED REAR GLASS DOOR is styled to original look of vehicle.
ADJUSTABLE SUNROOF is built-in at no additional cost.
SLIDING WINDOWS in front and sides are provided.

Plus more - Spoiler with 3rd Brake Light, Dome Light, Automotive Interior Carpeting, at no added expense!

DEALERS WELCOME

Exclusive Philippine Distributor of ALPHA Products
www.alphainnovation.com

RIDE OFF-ROAD & ACCESSORIES SHOP
97 Banawe St., Quezon City
Tels. 711-2026 • 711-2127 • 711-2162

CAMPERSHELLS, INC
5448 South Superhighway, Makati City
Tel. 889-2222

Everyone Loves POWER PEEL.

Power Peel effectively combats blemishes and ageing signs. Powerful microcrystals remarkably reverse acne scars and skin discoloration, greatly diminish skin imperfections and fine lines, visibly refine skin texture and hue, and gently exfoliate old surface skin to reveal a totally new, smoother, more radiant skin as fresh as a baby's. Over time, skin becomes firmer, younger-looking.

Power Peel is Your Power Over Time.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1259 815-3121 815-3123	687-2196 687-2197 631-3007 • 631-3045	372-6633 372-6634 410-3709 • 410-3710	534-7701/02 717-0076	842-1144 809-9583 850-4577	243-8138/39 243-8602 243-9895	920-7938 920-7992 920-8064	961-3404/08 860-2663/64	233-7631 233-7633/35

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

RP-US air treaty talks bog down

By Jennie L. Ilustre
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Amid the worst snowstorm in the US capital in eight years, the intense two-day negotiations for an air treaty between the Philippines and the United States turned cold as ice after both sides refused to budge from their positions.

The all-day negotiations which opened on Thursday ended the next day with the two sides agreeing to break up and review each other's proposed terms, paving the way for a second round of negotiations in the future.

But with President Macapagal-Arroyo scheduled to make a state visit here from April 2 to 4, it's possible the US airline industry could prevail on her to break the stalemate and approve new terms for the Philippine-US Air Treaty of 1982 in America's favor as a way of keeping US investors in the country.

According to Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Arturo T. Valdez, head of the 20-member Philippine delegation of officials and industry leaders, the US wanted the formalization of the current practice of US cargo open skies—called the seventh freedom traffic rights—which is not covered in the 1982 air treaty.

The practice began in 1995, when the last deferment of open skies took effect, because then President Fidel V. Ramos wanted to open up the country to investors. Federal Express started its freight operations in Subic in 1997. United Parcel Service, or UPS, established its hub of operations at Clark in 2001. Both are huge dollar earners.

"We were willing to formally grant the US seventh freedom rights in exchange for terms of fair and substantial value, but the American panel rebuffed our terms," Valdez said in an interview.

The US rejected the following Philippine demands: deferment of the open skies policy for "not less than 10 years;" marketing commercial agreements for Philippine carriers to fly US cargoes in regional sectors; and enhancement of some beyond-point rights, such as Philippine carriers' unlimited flight frequencies to Japan. Currently, the Philippines is allowed seven flights a week.

Valdez said the Philippines wanted reciprocity for seventh freedom rights, which "did not have to be in aviation, but could be economic assistance."

The Philippines also wanted balance of opportunities and enhancements, including the issues of airline ground handling and new route rights for Philippine carriers "to points in the US, to points beyond the US in third countries, and to points in the US via intermediate points in third countries."

Philippine Air Lines, the nation's flag carrier, flies to San Francisco and Los Angeles in California and Honolulu in Hawaii.

The 22-member US panel, headed by Laura Faux-Gable, deputy director of the State Department's Office of Aviation and Negotiations under the economic and business affairs bureau, rejected the Philippine terms.

On the other hand, the Philippines rejected US demands for code-sharing rights for both combination and cargo services between non-designated bilateral carriers; between US carriers; and between US carriers and Asian airlines.

The Philippines viewed as detrimental to its interests same-country code sharing and third-country code sharing. The former means US airlines using the services of another US carrier to fly their passengers and cargo to the Philippines. Third-country code sharing means US airlines using the services of Japan Air Lines or Korean Air Lines to carry their passengers and cargo to Philippine destinations.

Agile compromised BSP, Neda–Joker

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and National Economic Development Authority (Neda) may have compromised their Constitutionally mandated independence by taking advice from the United States-funded lobby group, Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity (Agile).

"BSP and Neda cannot and must not accept foreign advisers," Sen. Joker Arroyo said.

The BSP, Arroyo explained, was established as an "independent central monetary authority." Neda's independence as an agency tasked with implementing programs and policies for national development was likewise dictated by the Constitution, he noted, aside from the fact that it was headed by the President.

By constitutional directive, Arroyo said, "independent" meant "free from outside interference."

"But what has happened? BSP Gov. (Rafael) Buenaventura admitted to the Senate that USAID, through its subsidiary Agile, had an office right in its midst," the senator said.

Likewise, the USAID (United States Assistance for International Development) website claimed Neda had availed of Agile's resources to "strengthen expenditure management."

The Senate has started an inquiry into Agile's operations, but has so far failed to compel any of its representatives to appear before it. Arroyo has been among the most vocal lawmakers on the issue.

Agile's influence reportedly cuts across the bureaucracy and government policy-making bodies, among them, the Departments of Finance, Budget and Management, and Agriculture, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the National Telecommunications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Arroyo said many of these agencies had been downplaying Agile's influence by claiming that its suggestions were not necessarily being implemented or accepted.

"(So) why is Agile there in the first place?" he asked. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
introducing CLEAR POWDER COPIER
RECONDITIONED
AMAZING 4- IN -1
COPIER • FAX • PRINTER • SCANNER
BRAND NEW
RICOH FT 3113 for only P15,000
Canon MPC 400 P30,500
Canon MPC 600 F P40,000
LAMINATOR P3,800
THERMAL BINDER P8,500
RING BINDER P8,000
Other copiers also available: FT 3320, FT 3013, FT 3313 FT 4415, FT 4418, FT 4220
SALES: 899-7101 up to 04 / 899-7045 • 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J. P. Rizal Ave., near cor. Makati Ave., Makati City • Fax: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sanslangko St., Cebu City ☎ 255-0504 • 256-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: McArthur Hi-way, Dolores San. Fdo. ☎ 963-5055 to 56 • Fax: 963-5059 • Digitel: 860-0383

ROTORCOMP
Screw Air Compressor
Made by Bauer of Germany
- Below 2ppm Oil Discharge
- 10 to 600 HP (7 to 13 Bars)
- Tropicalized Cooling System
- 30 % Larger than Standard
- Air Ends w/ Rolling Profile 10 yrs. Warranty
- Steel Tube Piping, no hose connections
- Oil separator & Filter Changed in Minutes

SWAN air compressors
- One year warranty
- Air cooled 2 HP to 30 HP
- Single stage & two stage models
- Heavy duty cast iron construction
- High volume discharge at low RPM
- Automatic unloader & pressure switch system

JM Compressed Air Dryer
JHD Series Heatless Dessiccant Type
J2K Series, Refrigeration Type
JFK Series, Compressed Air Filter

BLOWERS AND VACUUM BOOSTERS
HIGH PERFORMANCE LOW-COST BLOWERS
LONGTECH Made in Taiwan
KAWAKE RING BLOWER
- Capacity up to 280 m³/min
- For Blowing and Vacuum
- Applications:
  - Wastewater Treatment,
  - Chemical / Gas Processing,
  - Environmental,
  - Pneumatic Conveying,
  - Industrial,
  - Food Processing
  - and many more

VICTOR HARDWARE 697-699 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City, Philippines Tel.: (632) 743-6761 • Fax: 743-4587 & 732-0169 E-mail: victorhardware@i-manila.com.ph
HANDLING INNOVATION DOW JONES BUILDING, Warehouse #5-A, Km. 19 West Service Road, South Super Hi-way, Parañaque Tel.: (632) 822-2321; 822-2324 to 27 • Fax: 822-3232

VERY CHEAP PRICE POWER TOOLS
E. PLANER ₱995.00 ONLY
NS 100 WATER PUMP ₱2,200.00 ONLY
CUT-OFF MACHINE ₱3,800.00 ONLY
AIR BLOWER ₱950.00 ONLY
MITER SAW ₱4,000.00 ONLY
POWER SPRAYER ₱2,800.00 ONLY
GRASS CUTTER ₱9,500.00 ONLY
KAWASAKI, JAPAN
~~₱850.00~~ GRINDER ₱599.00 ONLY
~~₱850.00~~ DRILL ₱599.00 ONLY
PLEASE VISIT US AT
POWERMAN HARDWARE
528 T. ALONSO ST., STA. CRUZ MANILA • 733-3711 • 736-9554
CALTEX STATION - APO ST., QUEZON CITY - NEAR ROTONDA TEL. No. 731-0011 • 731-0022 • 740-5418

ASTHMA NEBULIZER
- Handy & Portable
- Lightweight
- Made in Italy
₱ 3,800.00 UNTIL February 28, 2003
RECORD NEBULIZER
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Flr. (45) 636-3513
SM MANILA 484-1471
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr. Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Port Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
CEBU

sanwa MULTITESTER
PC520M
NEW PC LINK
43,000 Points Data Logged in built-in Memory
MADE IN JAPAN

Function	Measuring Range
DCV	50m/500m/5/50/500/1000V
ACV	50m/500m/5/50/500/1000V
DCA	500µ/5m/50m/500m/5/10A
ACA	500µ/5m/50m/500m/5/10A
Resistance	50/500/5k/50k/500k/5M/50MΩ
Capacitance	50n/500n/5µ/50µ/500µ/9999µF
Temperature	-50°C~1000°C
Frequency	5Hz~125kHz
Continuity	Buzzer sounds at bet. 20Ω & 120Ω
Diode Test	Open voltage: Approx. 3.5V

WILLING ENTERPRISES, INC.
115 Rentas cor. 375 Juan Luna, Binondo, Manila
Tels.: 242-5085 • 242-5084 Fax: 241-9306
e-mail address: willingent@edsamail.com.ph

Canon
My new BF, may ZOOM na...
PRIMA BF-800 ZOOM
only ₱3995
...Glass pa ang lens!
kaya photos are always clear
wide angle or close ups, laging sharp ang dating
It's so easy to use. Fully automatic kasi...
... from film loading
... up to rewinding
May special nightscene and landscape modes din. Kaya photos ko creative ang dating!
Best of all, viewing and aiming, super-easy gamitin.
PRIMA BF-800 ZOOM
HUWAG NG MAGPAKA-PLASTIC, SA CANON GLASS LENS KA NA!
SELF TIMER • BRIGHT AND CLEAR LCD INFORMATIVE PANEL • MID-ROLL REWIND • RED EYE REDUCTION
BE PROTECTED Always demand for the CANON WARRANTY CARD
Exclusive Philippine Distributor
SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.
17/F Riviera Mansion, A. Mabini St., Malate, Mla.
Tel Nos.: 524-4604 • Fax. 524-4610
Email: seasia@info.com.ph
CANON CAMERA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE NETWORK (PHILS.)
Philippine Subsidiary Office: CANON MARKETING (PHILS.) INC.
www.canon.com.ph
AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

KAMA®*
Air-cooled diesel engine
Gasoline Engine
Gasoline / Diesel Generators Available 1.5kw to 15kw
Gasoline / Diesel Engine Pump
Engine Model: KM376G
ALL KAMA PRODUCTS COME WITH 1 YEAR WARRANTY
Exclusively Distributed by:
SUPER TRADE ENTERPRISES
937 EDSA, Philam, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1104, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 929-9069
Or contact your nearest authorized provincial dealer
* REGISTERED CHINA PATENT
* PENDING REGISTRATION PHIL. PATENT

StaplesKing.com
Your supplies kingdom online.
Staplesking Copy Paper 70gsm (S20)
Short - P100.00
Long - P115.00
A4 - P 105.00
- Free delivery within Metro Manila with just a minimum order of 10 reams
- Other School and Office Supplies also Available.
- You may fax your orders at 893-2611 or 894-5072
- For inquiries call 813-7828 loc. 222, 313 to 317. Look for Sherryl or Amie.
Go
Find it. Click it. Get it.

No response yet from FATF on talks with solons

THE FINANCIAL Action Task Force has yet to agree to meet with Philippine senators to resolve issues over the recently amended Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential legislative liaison officer, said the Paris-based group has not officially responded to Malacañang's request for a dialogue in Manila.

Earlier this month, the FATF recommended additional counter-measures against the Philippines beginning March 15 if the government failed to plug what it called loopholes in the AMLA which Congress passed in 2001.

The FATF, set up by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of industrialized countries, also was not satisfied with the amendments passed by Congress on Feb. 13, saying the new measures failed to address "previously identified deficiencies" in the law.

Dialogue

President Macapagal-Arroyo had invited the FATF to send a team to the country to hold a dialogue with Philippine legislators in order to come up with a consensus on amendments to the law.

"The idea is that they (should) talk directly and hear directly from each other what the contentious issues are," Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

"They (legislators) know what they're doing and they know the situation in the Philippines which they could explain to the FATF," he said.

Claudio said Malacañang had made the request in a letter to FATF president Jochen Sanio.

Claudio told AFP that US officials have been helping the Philippines secure a dialogue. Government officials were coordinating with the US Treasury Department to convince the FATF, he said.

Ricciardone, too

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone was also helping with coordination with the FATF, Claudio said.

Bunye said earlier that two FATF representatives were to arrive last Friday. He said they were supposed to meet with the senators today.

The President last week called on the US government to urge fellow FATF members to hold off implementing the sanctions which could affect the billions of dollars in annual remittances by overseas Filipino workers.

The FATF has given the country until March 15 to pass the needed revisions or face sanctions in terms of more costly remittances and bank transactions.

Several senators have rejected the FATF's demand to do away with having to secure a court order before authorities could look into "suspicious accounts."

They also rejected the FATF's demand that the law be made retroactive.

The senators only agreed to lower to P500,000 the threshold amount that could trigger an alarm on accounts.

The House of Representatives passed all the revisions required by the FATF. *Dona Pazzibugan and Armand Nocum with a report from AFP*

ICSEC
INTL. CULTURAL STUDIES & EDUCATION CORP.
(Exclusive Licensee of KAPLAN U.S.A.)
LKG Group offers
KAPLAN
www.kaplan.com
World Leader in Test Prep.
GMAT CGFNS NCLEX GRE USMLE LSAT TOEFL

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

GMAT & GRE	FEB 24	6PM	CEBU
GMAT & GRE	FEB 26	7PM	QC
CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE, & NCLEX	FEB 27	6PM	MKT
USMLE STEPS 1 TO 3	FEB 28	6PM	MLA

QC CTR - 1132 Quezon Ave. Tel: 371-8966 & 68 • 372-1689
MAKATI - 6787 Ayala Ave. Tel: 813-8222 & 82 • 892-3443
MANILA - Morayta Tel: 735-7713 to 16
CEBU - Winland, J.Osmeña Ext. Tel: (032) 254-1388 • 412-9977
Call us for info regarding our courses, course packages, free weekly seminars & free passes.

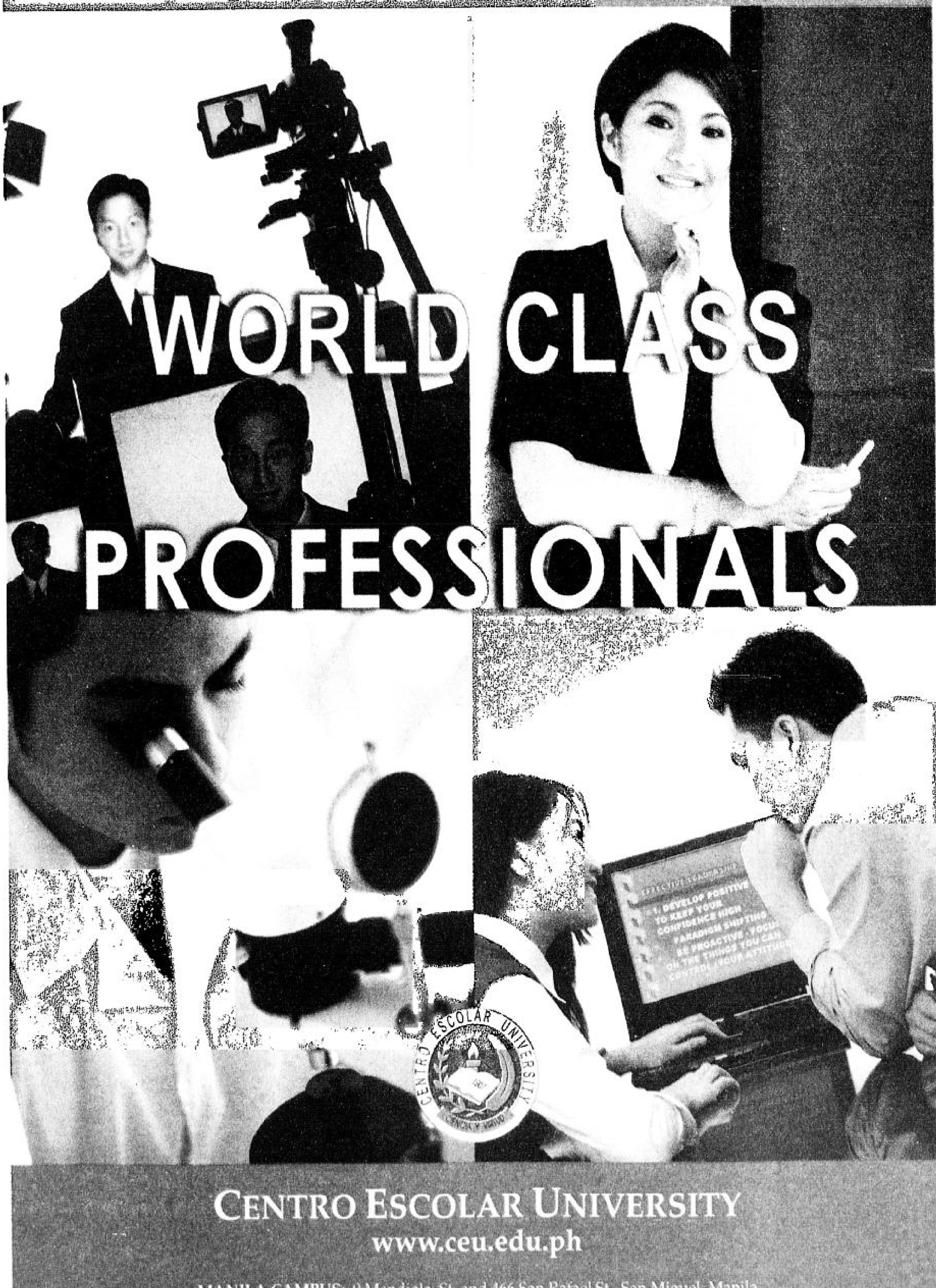
China Panorama

B1	Beijing 4 Days
H1	Shanghai 4 Days
H2-3	Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou 5 - 6 Days
C1A8	Beijing, Xian, Guilin 8 Days
C1B6	Beijing, Shanghai 6 Days
C1B9	Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guilin 9 Days
C1C10	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 10 Days
C2-11	Hangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Guilin 11 Days

** We also handle YangTze River Cruises, Shang'ri-la, Tibet, Silk Road, Inner Mongolia and other exciting tour **

PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Mla.
Tels.: 242-2585 Trunk line Fax : 242-2650 ; 242-2652
PTAA Http://www.pandatour.com DOT153-00

Accountancy • Business Administration • E-Commerce • Computer Science
• Pharmacy • Medical Technology • Dentistry • Optometry • Nursing
Tourism • Mass Communication • English • Economics • History • Political Science • Education
Library Science • Biology • Psychology • Mathematics • Family Economics • Nutrition & Dietetics
Social Work • Music • Hotel and Restaurant Management • Cosmetic Science • Secretarial Administration



CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY
www.ceu.edu.ph
MANILA CAMPUS: 9 Mendiola St. and 466 San Rafael St., San Miguel, Manila
Tel. No. 735 68 61 to 71 / 736 88 51 to 54
MALOLOS CAMPUS: Km. 44 McArthur Highway, Malolos, Bulacan Tel. No. (044) 622 84 39 / Fax No. (044) 791 63 59
The first university to be ISO 9001:2000 certified for all its programs in both campuses.
Granted Full Autonomy by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).
All programs are accredited Levels III & II as certified by the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP).

MOUNT SEA RESORT
Hotel and Restaurant
163 Marseilla St., Bagbag, Rosario, Cavite
Tel # (046) 438 3888, Fax # (046) 438 3777
With Free Drinks!
P175
Beat the HEAT this SUMMER 2003!
WATERFRONT with giant slides and playhouses!
Other amenities: Olympic Pool, Billiards Hall, Basketball & Volleyball Court, Obstacle Course Field, Mini Zoo, Darts, Badminton, Table Tennis, Videoke and Beach Front
[illegible]

TAPUSIN NA ANG IYONG PAGHIHIKAHOS!
HAHATAW NA SA IYO ANG BIYAYA AT SUWERTE!!!
Subok na ng napakarami!
Goodluck sa Negosyo, Trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa Lotto, Casino, Bingo Atbp.
LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT
ENJOY GOD'S MIRACLES!
BIG TIME DEAL!
SA LUCKY PYRAMID...
5 BILLION REAL ESTATE DEAL!
"Si Ms. Yda, isang real estate agent buo ang loob na susuwertehin nagbebenta ng Condo., House & Lot and Real Estate Properties, Tumungo kay Engr. Centeno, bumili ng Lucky Pyramid (with Face of Jesus Christ), at, naka pag closed ng DEAL WORTH P5 Billion Real Estate Properties." Hinambalos si Ms. Yda ng Suwerte! di ba?
HERBAL PRODUCTS:
HERBAL SLIMMING OIL PAMPA SEXY
BE TALLER WITH HEIGHT PILLS
LOVEMATE PAMPA-INIGATANG MAG-ASAWA
BRAIN BOOSTER PAMPATALINO!
Visit us at: JC HERBAL CENTER
2605 Nat'l. Hi-way, Anos, Los Baños City (after shell station) Tels:(049) 827-0757, FAX:(049) 5306900 Cells: 0917-5461917, 0919-3422861, 0920-2285914, 0920-2294830, 0919-8709780, P.O. BOX 34521 U.P. COLLEGE 4031 LOS BAÑOS CITY
FREE HOLY BIBLE sa mangang Customer. Opens daily: 8am-3pm
TIP: Suwerte Mo y Sinusundan. Gupitin ang ADS na ito ilagay sa PITAKA!
CUT AND BRING THIS AD FOR YOUR FREE LOTTO & BINGO (CIRCLE 8) TIPS

PRETTY HANDS COLLAGEN REPLACEMENT THERAPY
Beautiful Young Hands are accidents of nature.
Beautiful Old Hands are works of Art.
BEFORE AFTER
I had my hands on the wheel driving when my son said: "You used to have such beautiful hands, Mama". This comment prompted me to seek help from my friend Susan Co Ong
I invested an hour to take years off my hands
ALI SOTTO
T.V Host
Prettylooks
Hi-Tech Beauty Centre for Men & Women
SERVICES OFFERED:
• AESTHETIC TATTOO (EYEBROWS, EYELINE & LIPS) • LIP AUGMENTATION • NON-SURGICAL FACELIFT • NOSE LIFT • BUST LIFT • BREAST AUGMENTATION • BUTTLIFT • SERIOUS DEEP PORE FACIAL • RECOSTRUCT DAMAGED TATTOO • VARICOSE & SPIDER VEIN TREATMENT • WHITENING TABLET • INSTANT WHITENING • WARTS REMOVAL • LASER OMNILASE TREATMENT • FRECKLE REMOVAL • EYELASHES PERMING
Susan Co Ong
Asia's No 1 Aesthetic Artist
FOR FREE CONSULTATION VISIT OR CALL US AT:
• MAKATI: Unit 224-225 Bldg. #2 central Park I, Gen. Tinio St., cor. Binay St., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. 888-4830 to 31 • Cell No.0917-5100875
NOW OPEN ORTIGAS BRANCH
• ORTIGAS CENTER: Unit 1539 Mega Plaza Condo., 1907 ADB Ave., Cor. Garnet St. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 687-7507 • 687-5000
susanong@globenet.com.ph www.prettylooks.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RENT A COOLER

PRODUCTS OF FILIPINO INGENUITY

From the Most Outstanding & Most Awarded Water Cooler Drinking Fountain Manufacturer given by the Consumers Union of the Philippines 1996; 1999; 2000; 2001; 2002; Parangal ng Bayan Awards Foudation Awardee 1999-2001.

HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

1996 1999 2002 2001 2000

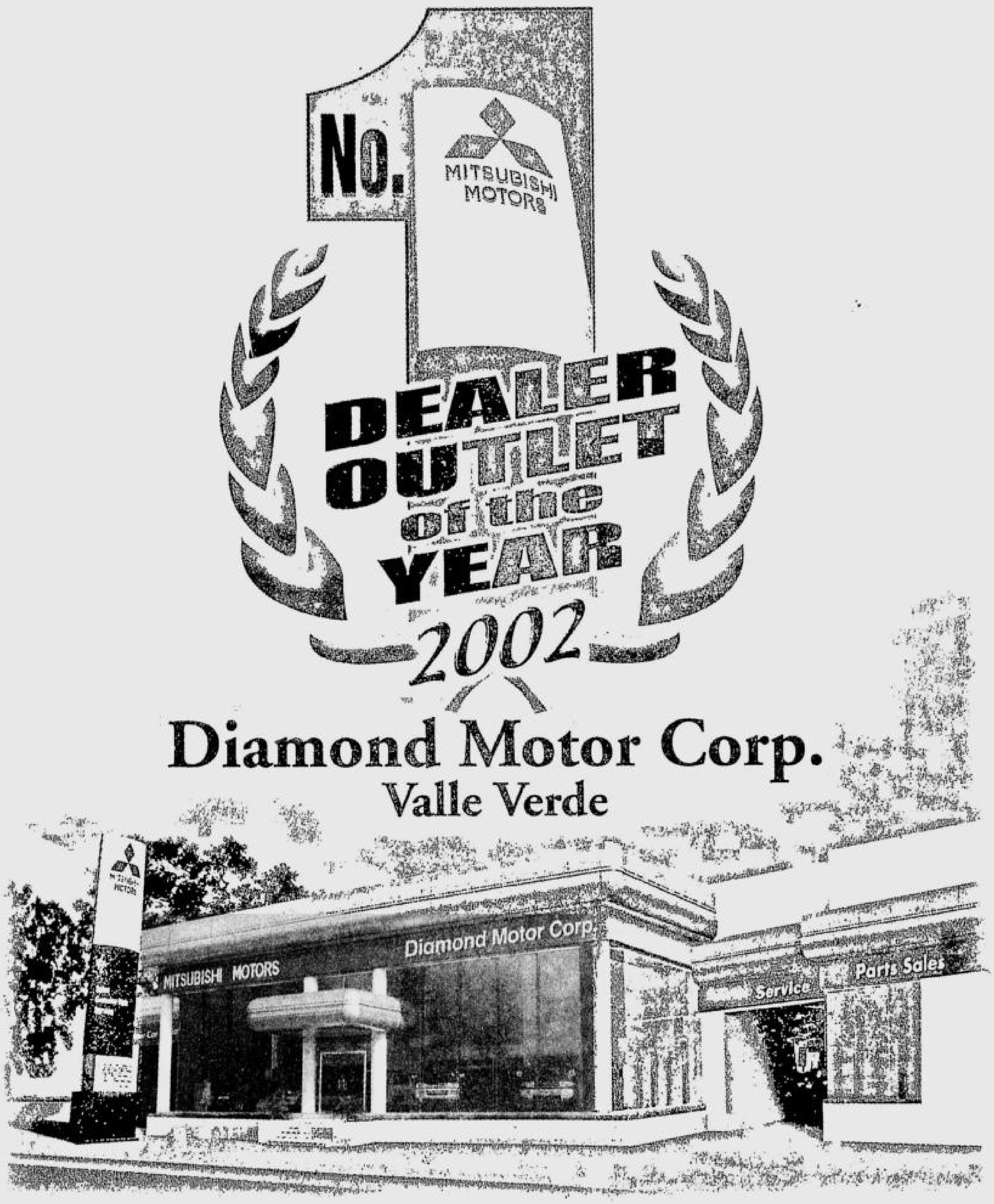
ICEBERG STD/MINI
Known for its durability. Made with Stainless Steel to withstand Rust & Corrosion.
Gives Cold Water even during power failures.

REFRIGERATED BOTTLED WATER DISPENSER/ HOT & COLD
Convenient and installation free.
Ideal for Executives, Offices, Board Rooms, Conference Rooms.

WATERSTATION
Ideal for fastfood centers, cafeterias, factories and other busy establishments.

KOOLER KOOLER INDUSTRIES
(A Division of Philippine Amusement Enterprises, Inc.)
JWS Center, 731 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 721-5781 to 85 Fax No.: 721-9193 721-9195
Website: www.pae.com.ph Email: paesales@pae.com.ph

BRANCHES: BALANGA, URDANETA, BACOLOD, CEBU, TACLOBAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO, DAVAO, GEN. SANTOS AND ZAMBOANGA


No. 1 MITSUBISHI MOTORS DEALER OUTLET of the YEAR 2002

Diamond Motor Corp.
Valle Verde

By making you our number 1 priority, you have made us the number 1 dealer.

Thank you.

We at Diamond Motor Corporation would like to congratulate our Valle Verde branch for achieving the "2002 Dealer/Outlet of the Year" award and thank you, the customer, for getting us there.

Winning this award is all based on everything we do to make the customer our number 1 priority.

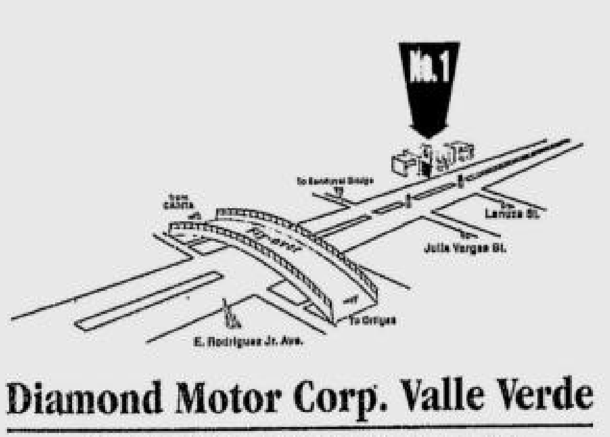
First off, we maintain a broad inventory of cars for a better selection and less wait for the car you want.

We insist on attendance in seminars and the passing of exams to provide comprehensive product knowledge so that our customers can make an educated decision.

We make sure that our facilities have pleasing, presentable, and relaxed environment with friendly, reliable service.

And lastly, we ensure that each customer leaves our building satisfied and smiling.

As you can see, this all adds up to the ultimate experience for you, our valued customer, without whom, none of this would have been possible. Thank you.



Diamond Motor Corp. Valle Verde
100 E.Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 671-9590 to 94 / 671-4391 / 671-4397

WE'RE EVERYWHERE TO SERVE YOU:
DIAMOND MOTOR - Greenhills - Tels. 727-0351 to 75, 721-0336 DIAMOND MOTOR - Marcos Highway - Tels. 645-4801 to 05 , 681-4101, 681-4133
DIAMOND MOTOR - Quezon Avenue - Tels. 372-3901 to 15, 414-9433 to 37 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview - Tels. 418-3042, 935-3731 to 32

Diamond MOTOR CORPORATION

Oust-Liban memo sent to Palace

By Blanche S. Rivera

CITING persistent charges of corruption against Dante Liban, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to remove him as director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

The INQUIRER obtained a confidential memo to the President dated Feb. 21, in which Sto. Tomas said the government could no longer afford "the bickering that Liban has imposed on the system," nor should it further tolerate the controversies surrounding his administration.

She pointed to the findings of a committee created by the Tesda executive board last month to investigate the allegations of agency employees, as well as industry players, against Liban.

Among these findings were "irregular" use of agency funds and accreditation of testing venues that did not meet Tesda standards. "My only recommendation is to let Mr. Liban go," Sto. Tomas said in the three-page memo.

Sought for comment, the labor chief confirmed she had submitted the memo to Ms Macapagal, but said it was not supposed to be made public.

Recruiters, overseas performing artists and Tesda employees have accused Liban of making Tesda a "personal money-making machine and political wheel."

Industry players alleged that Liban's aides sold artists record books (ARBs) for up to P45,000 each.

Normally, each applicant paid only P300 for an ARB, which is needed to secure employment contracts for entertainers abroad. It is issued by Tesda after a performer has passed tests at an accredited training center.

"It is difficult to directly connect Liban with specific instances of corruption," Sto. Tomas admitted. "But if these do not constitute corruption, these are (still) cases of gross neglect and incompetence."

In a phone interview yesterday, Liban said he was "saddened" by the memo, but maintained that most of the allegations against him were hearsay.

He said the fact-finding committee itself had admitted that there was no evidence to support the charges.

"I am more interested in what the President thinks," he said, "because she was the one who appointed me."

He accused Sto. Tomas of lobbying for someone to replace him.

Meanwhile, he said, he had asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the reported sale of ARBs.

Photokina joins new poll bidding

FIFTY-FIVE companies, including the controversial Photokina Marketing Corp., are bidding for the P3-billion poll modernization projects of the Commission on Elections.

The Comelec collected a total of P825,000 during the pre-bid conference at the Comelec central office in Intramuros last Tuesday, the Comelec information office said.

Companies that had been in the Photokina-led consortium that won a now voided P6.5-billion contract three years ago were among those which manifested their interest to bid for the project.

Photokina Marketing and the foreign-owned Sagem and Unsisys led the firms seeking to clinch the contract for the three-pronged modernization program.

The program provides for the purchase of some 2,700 counting machines for the automation of counting and canvassing; the same number of electronic transmission gadgets for consolidation; and a still undetermined number of data-capturing machines for the validation of voters' lists in selected areas.

Photokina declared its interest in bidding for the counting and validation machines.

The French-owned Sagem registered under validation, and the US-based Unisys will be bidding for counting machines.

The Comelec en banc amended its notice of bid two weeks ago to accommodate foreign firms like Sagem and Unisys which had wanted to participate in the bidding.

Photokina and its parteners—Sagem, Unisys, Polaroid, IBM, Headstrong—formed the consortium that was awarded the contract for the P6.5-billion voters registration and identification system (VRIS) which the Supreme Court declared null and void last year. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Recollection set

THE SAN Carlos Pastoral Formation Center (SCPFC) is inviting everybody to attend a Lenten recollection on March 15, 8 a.m. to noon at the Layforce Chapel of the SCPFC complex on Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Invited to talk on "The Catholic Laity as Servant Leaders of the Cross" is Rev. Fr. Anton Pascual, deputy director of Caritas Manila.

Fr. Pascual is the spiritual director of transparochial communities like the Loved Flock and Oasis of Love. He is also deputy minister of the Ministry for Social Services of the Catholic Church.

For details, call the lay formation center at 895-88-55, local 300, 301 and 307, or e-mail at layforce@mydestiny.net.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Take Reds off terror list, Guingona urges gov't

By Norman Bordadora

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. has called on the government to work for the removal of the terrorist tag on the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to get the peace talks with the National Democratic Front going again.

The peace negotiations bogged down after the NDF pressed the government to have the terrorist tag leveled against it by foreign governments removed. These countries include the US, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and those in the European Union. The NDF is the umbrella organization of the CPP and the latter's armed wing, the NPA.

"The terrorist tag should be removed if only for the peace negotiations to continue," Guingona told the INQUIRER in a chance interview.

"Besides, the NPA were rebels long before this terrorist tag became common in the international community," he said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, for his part, said the NDF should be blamed for the delay in the peace talks, even after the government had placed a final peace agreement on the table.

"There is a stalemate and if they don't want to negotiate, the onus will be on them," said Ople, before leaving for Malaysia as part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's delegation to the Non-Aligned Movement summit.

Ople said the government will not work to remove the terrorist tag on the CPP and NPA if no substantial progress is made on the negotiating table.

"This interdiction by the international community will not be reviewed unless the NDF shows good faith and returns to the peace table," Ople said.

"When there has been substantial progress made in the negotiations, that's the only time we will consider reviewing the terror tag on the CPP-NPA and (NDF consultant Jose Ma.) Sison himself," he said.

The government lobbied the international community to include the CPP-NPA in the list of terrorist groups after the global war on terror made such lists mandatory under a United Nations resolution.

Being placed on the list meant a terror organization's assets were frozen and its funding sources were blocked, making it hard for the group to operate.

Ople said the government lobbied for the inclusion on the terror list of the CPP, NPA and Sison to force the NDF back to the peace table.

Group to AFP: Stop anti-NPA operations

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A multi-sectoral group here has urged the military to stop its operations in the remote villages of Banga, South Cotabato.

The operations, launched in January after a military commander was ambushed in Tupi town, have displaced hundreds of local residents.

The military officer and three of his men were wounded in the attack allegedly perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA).

Fr. Jerry Llaban, Banga parish priest and leader of the multi-sectoral group, said the residents should be given a chance to lead normal lives.

Llaban said the operation against the NPA rebels believed to have been behind the ambush of soldiers under Col. Eduardo Andes, head of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion, not only displaced the civilians but hampered their livelihood.

He said the residents feared going to their farms. "As a consequence, many of them are in a quandary over where to get food to feed their families," he said.

Llaban said that aside from the problem of food, the residents complained of human rights violations allegedly committed by soldiers and militiamen.

He said his group is documenting the allegations so charges could be filed before the Commission on Human Rights.

Llaban also called on the NPA to spare the civilians from the "horrors and tribulations of war." *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

High Cholesterol?
Life is in the blood, take
ABS HERBS
(BFAD FR 24465)
COMPLETE VEGETABLE SUPPLEMENT W/ BITTER HERBS
Powered by AMPALAYA, LAGUNDI, MALUNGGAY, SALUYOT, PEPPERMINT, TURMERIC, KING OF BITTERS all in one capsule.
- ABS HERBS HELPS CONTROL BLOOD SUGAR
- LOWERS CHOLESTEROL AND URIC ACID
- DETOXIFIES THE BODY
- BOOSTS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

Now in mercury drug and leading drugstores nationwide.

YOUR COMPANY HAS A DRUG PROBLEM...
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT!
DRUGCHECK PHIL. INC.
DrugCheck
THE COUNTRY'S NO.1 and ONLY NATIONWIDE DRUG-TESTING CO.
- PREVENT stealing and theft!
- CUT absenteeism and accidents.
- INCREASE productivity!
- SAVE P950 for every P50 spent for Our Complete Drug Prevention Program.
- INCREASE company profit!

Our Complete Drug Prevention Program will...
1. Clean up your co.
2. Save you money

900-8888

Simmons
You spend about one third of your life in bed so don't settle for second best.

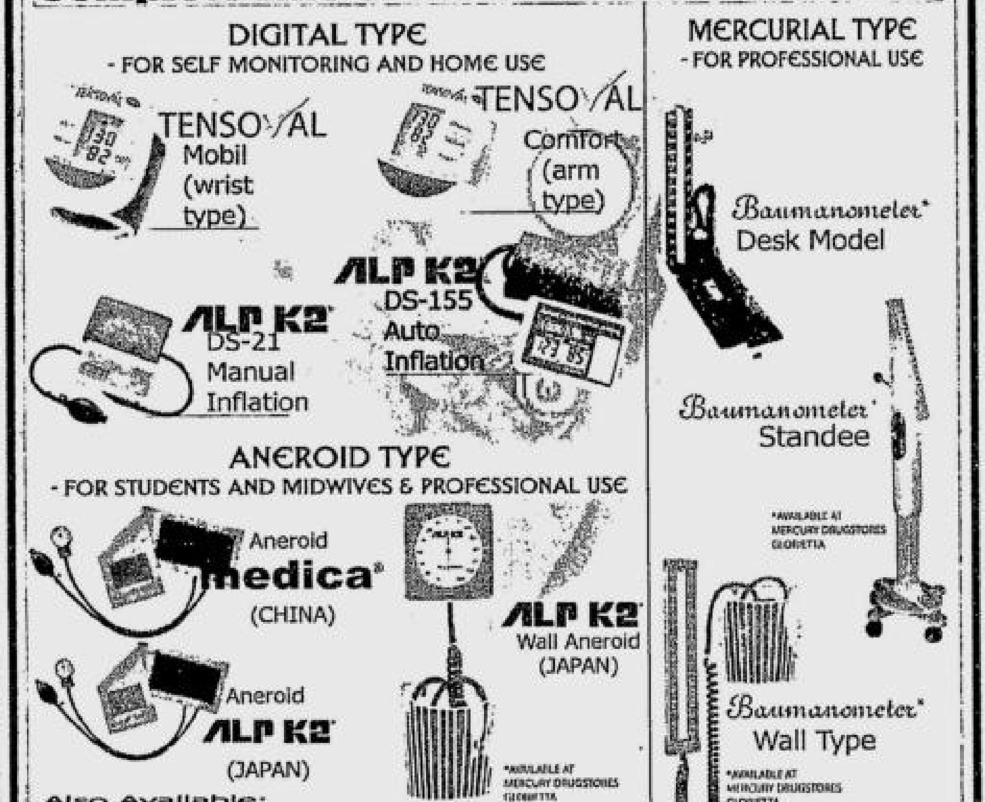
Independent Pocketed Coilsprings reduce the transfer of partner movement.

NFSH
Recommended by experts, leading orthopedic surgeons and NSFH.

- 70% of people sleep with a partner.
- Average person moves 40-60 times a night.
- 60-70% of movements are matched by partner.
- Motion disrupts sleep quality.
- Simmons minimizes motion transfer.
- Quality sleep leads to a more productive life.

Sole Agent:
DEXTERTON HOME BOUTIQUE
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006 Fax No. 362-0524
E-mail : dexterton@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

GLOBAL BRANDS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS
Complete Line of Blood Pressure Monitors



DIGITAL TYPE
- FOR SELF MONITORING AND HOME USE
TENSOVAL Mobil (wrist type)
TENSOVAL Comfort (arm type)
ALP K2 DS-155 Auto Inflation
ALP K2 DS-21 Manual Inflation
ANEROID TYPE
- FOR STUDENTS AND MIDWIVES & PROFESSIONAL USE
Aneroid medica (CHINA)
Aneroid ALP K2 (JAPAN)
ALP K2 Wall Aneroid (JAPAN)
MERCURIAL TYPE
- FOR PROFESSIONAL USE
Baumanometer Desk Model
Baumanometer Standee
Baumanometer Wall Type
*AVAILABLE AT MERCURY DRUGSTORES GLORIETTA

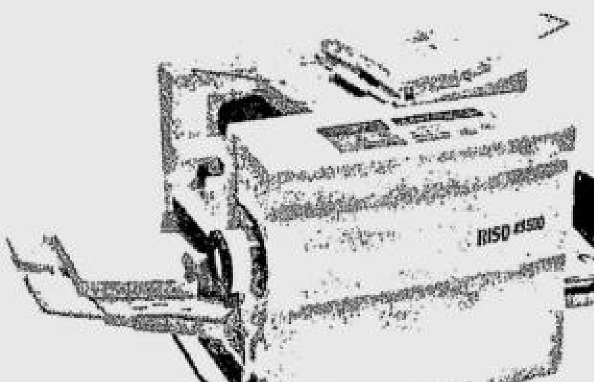
Also Available:
3M Littman Stethoscope ALP K2 Littman Type Stethoscope

Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor Shaw Bvd., Pasig City
Tels 631-1715 631-5355 637-5904 Fax (632) 631-7689
E-mail Address medcen@info.com.ph

BRANCHES:
Pasig Branch - (02) 631-1715
Manila Branch - (02) 711-8374
Davao Branch - (082) 222-4404
Iloilo Branch - (033) 320-1413
Cebu Branch - (032) 254-2367
Lipa Branch - (043) 757-2051
Pampanga Branch - (045) 961-7892

Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide

This RISOGRAPH for only P88,000!



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF INSTANT PRINTING!
See the unprecedented in Riso Technology at
THE RISO NEW PRODUCTS SPECIAL EXHIBIT
March 14-15, 2003 at the Garden Ballroom EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

COPYLANDIA & RISO
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Your Partners in Instant Printing!

With the widest network of branches to serve you.

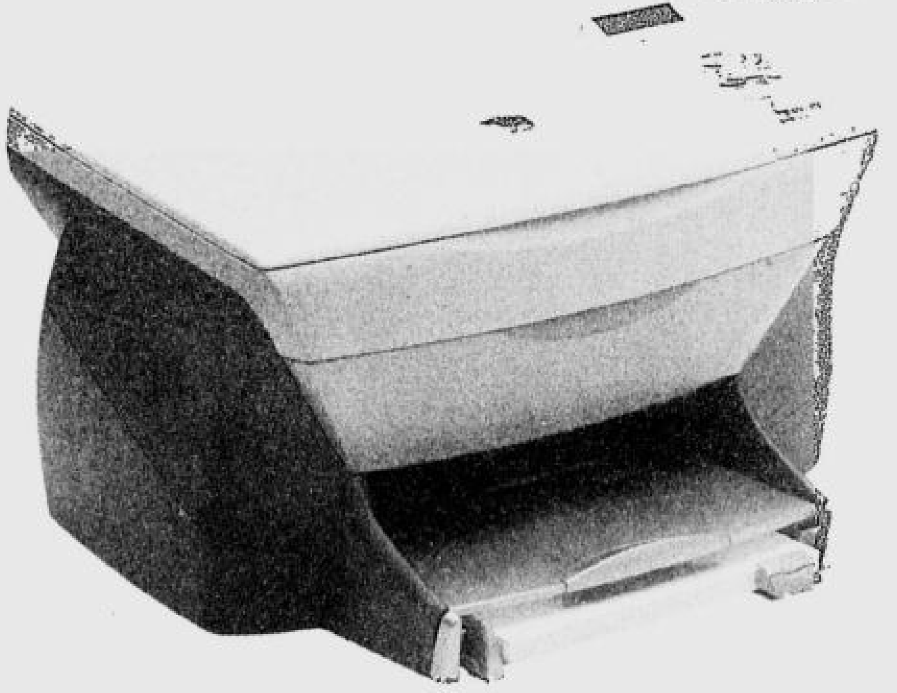
METRO MANILA
Call 7476-888
Main Office/Showroom
COPYLANDIA CORPORATE CENTER
718 Bumatay Street
(near City Hall) Mandaluyong City

LUZON		VISAYAS		MINDANAO	
Angeles	(045) 322-1707	Bacolod	(034) 435-0193	Butuan	(085) 342-5321
Dagupan	(075) 515-3306	Cebu	(032) 232-4620	Cagayan De Oro	(088) 857-4272
Lipa	(043) 757-0235	Dumaguete	(035) 225-4769	Davao	(082) 224-0793
Los Baños	(049) 536-5458	Iloilo	(033) 320-7488	Iligan	(063) 221-3713
Naga	(054) 473-4036	Tacloban	(053) 321-7011	Zamboanga	(062) 991-2440
Baguio	Opens April '03	Tagbilaran	(038) 411-2398		

The machine price excludes installation costs for areas beyond 50 kms from any of our branch offices

All-in-one.
All for less.

NOW ONLY P9,995



If you want a printer that can do more, you don't have to pay more to get it! Print, scan and copy with the HP PSC 750 All-in-one printer, now only P9,995.00! That's multiplying your productivity times three at a very low cost! Who said you can't have it all? So hurry, don't miss out, visit your authorized HP dealer today.

hp psc 750

print
- hp photoREt 3 colour layering technology
- up to 2400 x 1200 dpi on photo paper
- up to 11/8.5 ppm (black/colour)

scan
- 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution
- 36-bit colour

copy
- up to 11/8 cpm (black/colour)

PhP 9,995

hp invent

For more information call (632) 867-3557 or toll-free 1-800-1331-4488 or email ph.contact@hp.com

ABC Computers 721-4960, 722-0370 • Accent Micro Products 634-2417, 927-7330 • Asianic 781-8245 to 48 • Columbus Group of Companies 564-1841 • Columbia Computer Center – Davao (082) 221-1475, 221-1678 • Complink Marketing 637-1234 • Dilshe 740 1888, 740 1891 • Electroworld 747 2058, 727 5057, Electroworld VisMin (032) 345-2787 to 89 • Fatkee Computer Systems 727-3771 to 78 • Infoworx 897-5147, 897-5279 MDR Microware Sales (032) 255-4415, (032) 254-5382 • NT Computer Mart 705-1734 • Perfectbyte 723-1718 • PC Express 718-2828, 718-3838 • PC Live 633-1722, 925-5688 • Prodata 414-4336/47, 723-0030 • Silicon Valley 371-5611 to 20, 371-6945 • The Computer Authority 637-1200 • Thinking Tools Inc. (032) 254-2227 • Total Quality Machines 526-4503 • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. 929-0411 to 12

©2003 Hewlett-Packard Company. All rights reserved.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 18 No. 78
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

•100% soy ink•

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Desk Editor **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Stop the parade

EDITORIAL

THE POLICE tradition of parading suspects before the media is a war of attrition waged against a basic constitutional principle: the presumption that a person is deemed innocent until proven guilty. We have attacked this pernicious practice on various grounds, but it wasn't until last Thursday that we actually heard policemen themselves come out against it.

Police officer Antonio Emmanuel, spokesperson of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, appealed to the top brass of the Philippine National Police to stop presenting suspects before the cameras at least until the "investigation is finished."

As it turns out, Manila policemen are complaining because last week one of their own was mistakenly identified, by no less than the chief of police of Metro Manila, as the kidnapper of 29-year-old Chinese student Lei Niu. Acting on the spade work of the Valenzuela police, Director Reynaldo Velasco named police officer Pio San Pedro as Niu's abductor.

But Niu, the Manila police said, had not been kidnapped. He stayed at San Pedro's house for three days of his own free will, spent time walking around the neighborhood by himself, and even visited the Sta. Peregrina Elementary School in Pulilan, Bulacan as the guest of San Pedro's 10-year-old daughter.

It is possible that San Pedro merely finds himself in the middle of a tug-o'-war between two police districts, with cops on one side protecting their own and cops on the other anxious to prove they can make the necessary tough call. It is also possible that there may be more to Niu's three-day stay as a "spécial guest" in Bulacan than meets the eye. Velasco will have to reconcile the conflicting versions and resolve this issue himself.

But the point has already been made, if inadvertently. "They should have given him (San Pedro) due process first," Emmanuel said. They hadn't "even filed the case with the fiscal when he was presented." He then proceeded to draw the explicit moral of the story. "If it is proven that he is innocent, what will happen? He had already been paraded before the cameras. That is the moral lesson."

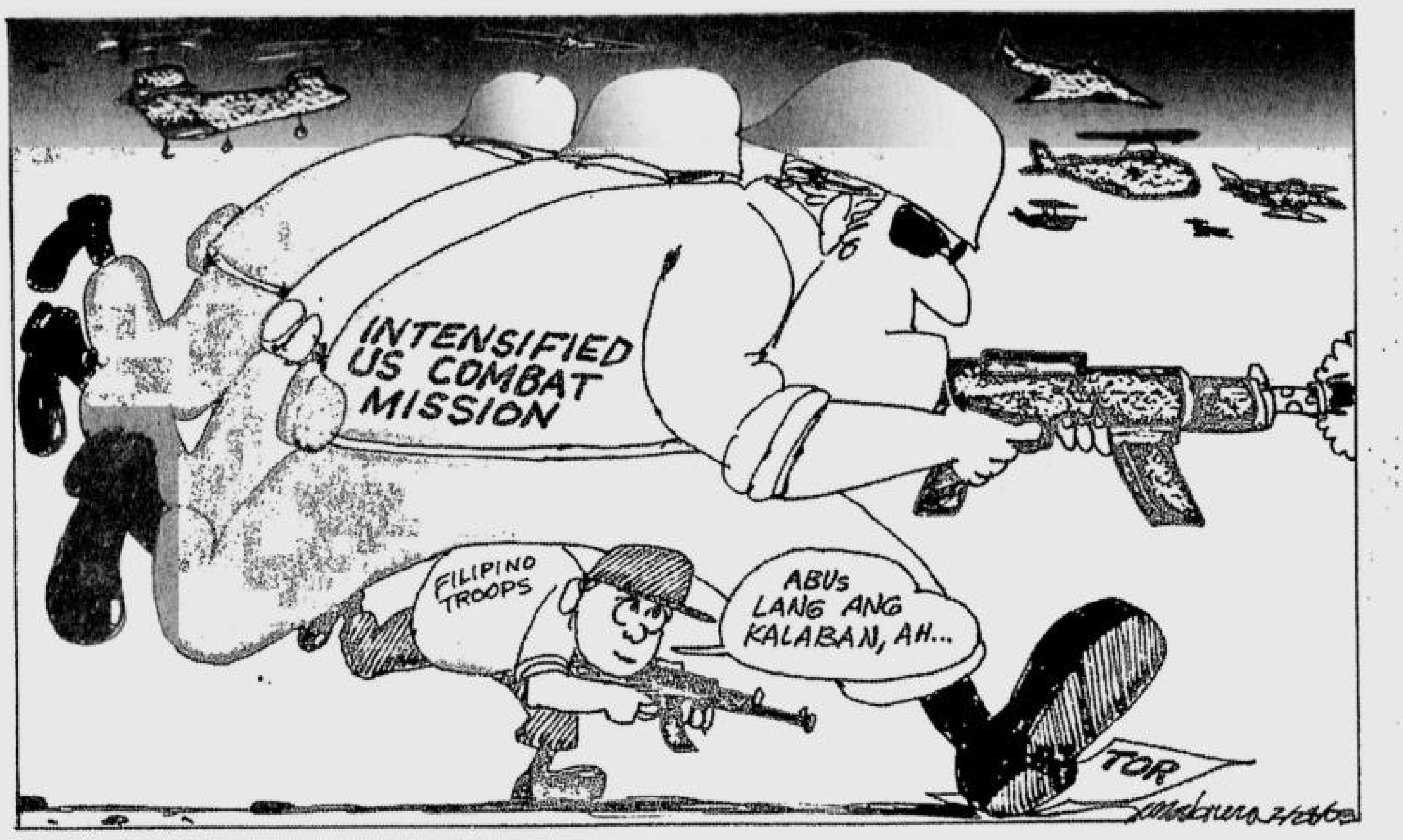
It is unfortunate that it had to take a bizarre presentation (Velasco at one point held San Pedro by the chin, the better for photographers to take pictures of the suspect wearing a red detainee's shirt) for some policemen to finally see the light. Or at least some of it. Note how Emmanuel phrased his argument: "If it is proven that he is innocent, what will happen?" But suspects are *presumed* innocent; they or the police don't have to prove it. That is the whole point of the constitutional principle involved.

It is likely that Emmanuel didn't mean to upend the principle; he may simply have used the first phrase that came to mind. But that only goes to show how insidious the police practice of parading suspects truly is: It has taught us to think in terms of proving innocence, rather than guilt.

We believe that the practice of presenting suspects before the media even before they have been formally charged is an assault on the Bill of Rights. But in the Philippine context, we believe the attack becomes even worse because the practice is used as a substitute for performance. How often have we seen the following scene played before all-too-willing cameras? A few days after a crime, the police round up the usual suspects and present them, transparently hoping that such quick action will appease an anxious public and "solve" the problem.

It is this rush to be seen as performing that forces the police, as in the notorious Abadilla 5 case, to inflict various instruments of persuasion on hapless victims, in order to extract a convenient confession. It is the same rush to ingratiate one's self with the higher-ups that leads the authorities, such as National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco in the Acsa Ramirez case, to confuse the whistle-blower with the suspect, or to refuse to apologize for a self-evident mistake.

"Human rights require that suspects be given due process first before they are condemned," Emmanuel said. Ah, yes. Like a hanging, the experience of being so casually condemned before a watching public truly clears the mind.



We are in a new age of colonization

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WE are incensed by the arrival of American Green Berets to participate in the extermination of the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu, but a more dangerous subversion of our independence and autonomy by the American government has been going on here for many years now. The unkindest cut is that this has been going on with the full cooperation of the executive department. And with Filipinos, our own countrymen, working for the foreigners to influence Philippine policies and legislation. In times of war, these Filipino Mata Haris would be shot for treason.

I am referring of course to the agents of that shadowy group called Agile, run by Americans with their Filipino stooges as an arm of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). There are groups working in almost all government departments, influencing policies in all aspects of the government, from tax collection, to aviation and ports development, to telecommunications, economics, budgeting legislation—name it, they're in there like fleas and ticks sucking the blood of their hosts. They are behind many important legislation. They are behind the controversial Anti-Money Laundering Act and the unconstitutional Absentee Voting Law, as well as many trade liberalization laws and policies.

They not only influence policies and legislation, they also actually interfere in the operations of purely Filipino government offices. They use, for free, offices in the different government agencies, assisted by Filipino staffers paid for by the host departments. What's more, they actually prevent Filipino officials from implementing decisions and even to change these decisions.

Just one, and very ironic, example: An Agile group is ensconced in offices on the fourth floor of the main building of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Quezon City. They are using the space rent-free; electricity, water, air-conditioning, computers, office supplies, janitorial services are also free. BIR employees are assigned to assist them. But do you know what they are doing? They are working for the abolition of the present BIR and replacing it with a private corporation. All the 12,000 BIR employees and workers will lose their jobs. Can you imagine a more traitorous act?

In fact, the bill to that effect is being railroaded in the House of Representatives. That bill, seeking the establishment of the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara), has already been approved by the committee on ways and means chaired by Rep. Jules Ledesma, better known as the husband of sexy movie star Assunta de Rossi. The committee railroad finished its job after only three hearings during which, opposers were invited late but were not allowed to speak out during the hearings.

The committee chair pushed approval on the third reading of the Nara bill in spite of protests of House members to be allowed to air their views first. Ledesma said that approval of the bill is a "done deal" and that it "is being rushed on orders of the President and will be a gift to her on or before the end of the session."

This is an "open insult on the independence and integrity of the House of Representatives," said Rep. Aniceto Saludo.

"Since when have we passed legislation just to humor and gift the President with half-baked and ill-conceived legislation?" he asked. "Since when have we stooped down and allowed the members of this august chamber to be tagged as sycophants of the executive department? Have we finally lost all sense of decency and dignity to dispense with the hallowed democratic principle of separation of powers? Did we authorize the chairman of the committee on ways and means to compromise our individual and collective integrity, independence and respectability as members of Congress when he went out on a limb to dance to the music of Malacañang's drumbeaters?"

And yet Ledesma's committee on ways and means is the wrong committee to handle the Nara bill. There is no revenue or tax measure in the proposed Nara bill. Thus, there is nothing for the committee on ways and means to justify its authority to hear the bill. The bill is a proposed reorganization or restructuring (translation: abolish) of the BIR and to privatize it. The proper committee to handle it is the committee on government reorganization headed by Rep. Vince Sumulong of Rizal. But Ledesma is usurping the authority of Sumulong.

Privatize the premier tax collection agency of the government? Do you realize how dangerous that is? A tax collection agency run for profit by a private corporation? I know of no government in the world that has such a setup, not even the United States whose operatives are pushing this privatization.

Do you remember the Yankee carpetbaggers who invaded the defeated South after the American Civil War and abused the Southerners? I think there is a second wave of these carpetbaggers. Now they are invading Third World countries in this era of globalization and trade liberalization. The policies of these poor countries are being influenced to favor the giant corporations of developed countries at the expense of the poor nations.

We are in a new age of colonization.

Still, impeach her

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I can't understand all this business about Agile, the group presumably lobbying for American interest in this country. My reason for this has nothing to do with the one offered by Michael Yates, the mission director of USAID, who says Agile is not an NGO or a lobby group but an American-funded project governed by a steering committee composed of the Department of Finance, Neda and USAID. Maybe yes, maybe no. I leave others to dispute it. The senators seem to be doing a good job of it in their Question Hour.

Where I stand, you grant that Agile is a lobby group that has tentacles reaching out to all nooks of government service, surreptitiously trying to influence policy, legislation and legal framework, what of it? The real problem is not the presence of moles in the interstices of government quietly subverting national interest. It is the presence of leaders in the highest offices of government gleefully shredding national interest. The real problem is not that Malacañang might be unwittingly persuaded in the end to defend American interest rather than the national one. The real problem is government has never needed persuading from the very beginning, it is perfectly willing and eager to champion American interest all by itself.

The real problem is not Bernie Villegas, Juanita Amatong, Margarita Songco and Roman Azanza, the Filipinos sitting in the Agile steering committee. The real problem is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Angelo Reyes, Roilo Golez and Blas Ople, the people—not always easy to say, Filipinos—serving as President, defense chief, national security adviser and foreign secretary respectively.

Look what GMA is doing to the country. The Constitution is clear on the point. This country may not allow foreign troops into this country for purposes of combat. Yet that is what GMA has just done. She has signed an agreement with Donald Rumsfeld authorizing US troops to engage in combat in Jolo. The deviousness with which she has done it is matched only by the deceitfulness with which her officials have tried to cover it up.

What is that silly excuse from the press secretary about the New York Times, CNN, the various wires and the various US newspapers simultaneously getting their facts wrong? *Ano 'to, nakuryente sila*? Who is more believable, Ignacio Bunye saying the American media were leaked the wrong information, or a Pentagon official saying "one reason for telling the reporters about the new mission in the Philippines was that Mr. Bunye had mischaracterized the scope of the operation that had already been agreed upon in private."

Nene Pimentel is right to be furious and say, "This is treason in its basest form because he (Angelo Reyes) is subverting the Constitution by militarizing the policymaking process even in relation to the maintenance of law and order and the establishment of peace in the country, which only the legislature is mandated to decide." But he is wrong to be furious only at Reyes. The ultimate blame for this nightmare rests not on Reyes but on GMA. She is the President, she is the commander in chief. She calls the shots—in this case, literally. She it is who has single-handedly brought back American colonialism into this country, including a reenactment of the American campaign against Muslim Mindanao. Because it boggles the mind to understand how you need such an awesome force to fight only the Abu Sayyaf.

It is treason. But, well, it's the legislators' fault too this happened. They never allowed a squeak to pass through their lips when GMA was bringing in all those troops last year presumably for war games, afraid to protest the iniquity lest they earn the ire of the anti-terror Inquisitors and be called traitors. Indeed, when only Teofisto Guingona was heroic enough to stand up to it—even lose his job for it—and prove to the world who truly swore by this country and who betrayed it.

In an interview with a foreign wire last week, GMA said that before she went, she would like to leave a country that enjoyed peace and unity, that had recovered from poverty, that was freed from the threat of terror. I myself offer another picture of the world she will leave behind.

She will leave an economy in shambles, the peso shrunk to, well, choose your metaphor for diminutive, as the effects of the war she is supporting kick in. She will leave the OFWs in the Middle East desolate and helpless, scorned, discriminated upon and in fear for their lives and homes. She will leave a nation that will be the laughingstock of the non-aligned coalition and a pariah in the international community. She will leave a country torn by strife and bloodshed, turned now into a real laboratory for terror and mayhem. She will leave a people that have lost their peace, their freedom and their hope, while flying the banners of war, bigotry and the Burning Bush.

And in the end, the United States won't do anything for this country anyway, to make up for all the harm it has caused. You have a sidekick who can be counted to be loyal to you no matter how hard you kick him, you will not give him the carrot, only its skin, even if he grumbles now and then about its horrible taste and lack of edibleness. As in World War II, the United States will rehabilitate the enemy it has fought bitterly against, in this case Iraq, repairing in particular the oil fields that have been set ablaze by Saddam Hussein. And for the same reason it rehabilitated Germany and Japan after the war: because a rehabilitated Iraq can be counted upon as an ally while a devastated one can only be counted upon to produce a future enemy.

The way GMA is tearing this country apart, May 2004 has suddenly become too far away. I said it before: Impeach her.

While there's something left of us.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Running

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EVERY time the government is about to conduct a Balikatan exercise with Filipino and American troops, the nation goes through this debate of will-the-Kano-be-combatants-or-just-trainors-and-advisers? Recall the same controversy in Balikatan 1, which directly led to the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona from the DFA. Now the Pentagon says the US troops will join in combat versus the Abu Sayyaf, while Palace officials say, no, they will merely train our troops.

The administration's wooly thinking on this issue is exacting a costly but needless political toll. The problem seems to be the lack of clear thinking on its part regarding these joint exercises. Palace spokesperson Ignacio Bunye insists there will be no violation of the Constitution since the US troops will play merely an advisory role, but few are inclined to believe him. But if right from the start the rationale and the terms of reference for these exercises have been clear, there would be no misinterpretation by both sides.

* * *

Is the President running in 2004, or is she truly retiring from politics as she had announced last Dec. 30? There are those who think she is really bowing out, but there are also those who suspect that she's going to run in 2004. On the other hand, some of her political allies are egging her to do so. In Roxas City, placards have gone up asking her to "reconsider for 2004" and the initiative is ascribed to followers of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. During GMA's recent visit to Iloilo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, who accompanied her to his hometown, referred pointedly to those Capiz placards when he told her in front of a big crowd that "we don't have placards like those here in Iloilo but in our hearts we want you to run in 2004." Hearing his appeal, Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez ribbed Drilon as being "even more *sip-sip*" to the President than Roxas, to which Drilon riposted, "I think all three of us are *sip-sip*."

* * *

At a briefing in Malacañang conducted by Marita Magpile-Jimenez, the presidential assistant for utilization of the official development assistance (ODA) from donor countries, for the League of Governors, she explained the President's 8-Point Priority Program that includes mass housing, the rehabilitation of existing railways and construction of new railways and other infrastructure such as ports, bridges, etc. Listening intently, Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay queried Jimenez whether the projects could be achieved in the 16 months left of the administration. What happens if the one succeeding her would not be sympathetic to those projects? he queried. Jimenez replied that the President just wants to get them started "*para tuloy-tuloy*," to which Magsaysay replied, "Why not get her to run again so she can finish them all?" Jimenez suggested to him, why not tell her yourself?

She then dialed GMA on her cell phone and Davao Gov. and League chair Rodolfo del Rosario told her what had transpired, followed by Magsaysay. The governors' message: why not run in 2004? The President was said to have parried their suggestion with a laugh and thanked them for their interest in her program. She also appealed for their continued support. Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia later suggested to his colleagues that they formalize their appeal to GMA to run in 2004; a league resolution is being prepared.

* * *

Is industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco also set to run in 2004? His son, Rep. Mark Cojuangco, was quoted as saying his father was "listening" to various leaders' appeal for him to run, but some political observers note that his camp has been doing more than that. To one politician I talked to, one indication that Cojuangco is running is that over the past few days, his camp flew a number of mayors of different parties from Negros Occidental, Panay and even Davao to Boracay island ostensibly for some training; but he noted that Cojuangco himself showed up overnight for a pep talk. Similar "training" sessions are being conducted in Palawan and other resort areas. Reports say he plans to field a candidate in every municipality in the country.

* * *

Last week, the Department of Health celebrated National Leprosy Week and it's timely to recall the Foundation for Assistance to Hansenites (Fahan) that Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J., formally organized in 1978 to help leprosy patients and their families through socio-economic and educational assistance, counseling and rehabilitation. The saintly Father Tritz, now 88 years old, is better known and internationally recognized for Erda Foundation which he set up in 1974 to help keep schoolchildren from poor families in school through material and psychological help, instead of becoming dropout statistics. Tritz initially put up the Movement for the Assistance to Hansenites, whose aim was to locate leprosy patients and motivate them to seek treatment, and tied it up with the sanitarium division of the Ministry of Health and the Philippine Leprosy Mission. Transformed into Fahan, it works closely with the government and other NGOs in providing services that uplift the leprosy patients' psychological and economic wellbeing through home visits (to some 73,572 patients over the years) and group meetings, as well as livelihood skills training in leather craft and the making of stuffed toys, tiles and rugs, etc.

Working on the principle that leprosy is no longer a health but a social problem where the community can help the patients, Fahan has carried out medical assistance to 70,456 clients and family members, while 158 devices were manufactured and endorsed to disabled clients. A total of 456 children of leper parents are presently scholars while 2,559 clients were referred to different organizations for assistance unavailable at Fahan.

So you want to be a newspaper reporter

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

AT THIS time of the year, the country's high school and college students are busy preparing for their final examinations. After all, graduation is less than a month away.

Last week, I received e-mail from graduating journalism students from the Western Mindanao and Eastern Visayas regions requesting some information about the newspaper's operations. They need the data for research papers they are required to complete before graduation.

After the usual thank you statements, they expressed interest in joining the INQUIRER after college. They asked if the newspaper has vacancies for reporters or editorial assistants "who may lack experience but are full of enthusiasm for work." They are willing to relocate to Metro Manila and suffer the discomforts of urban living to realize their dreams.

I wrote back to thank them for including the INQUIRER in their future plans. But, in the same breath, I warned them that life in the nation's capital, with its pollution, street crimes and high cost of living, may not be exactly a fair trade for the simplicity and tranquility of their hometowns.

The last time I talked with the editors about the reporters, I was told that there are three slots in the reportorial pool that are waiting to be filled up. First crack at the vacancies will be given to the present employees of the newspaper. If none of them qualify, outside applicants will be considered for the job. The list of aspiring reporters (and perhaps future editors) is long. The reason for that is either employment in the INQUIRER is considered prestigious or the unemployment condition in the country nowadays is really bad.

Qualifications

To the journalism students who last week and in earlier times asked me about the criteria they have to meet to be accepted into the INQUIRER family, here's a "checklist" you can consult to help you decide on how to go about fulfilling that aspiration.

The most important qualification is the ability to write clearly. The reporter has to write the Who, What, When, Why and How of a news in a way the readers can easily understand. The newspaper's audience does not have the luxury of time to reread ungrammatical sentences to find out the idea being conveyed, or reach out for the dictionary to explain certain words and phrases.

The poor quality of today's English language education has affected even journalism graduates of supposedly elite Metro Manila schools. I have seen the INQUIRER editors groan with frustration when they go over some of the drafts of news reports submitted to them for review. It's a cause for rejoicing if the errors are minor, like, misplaced commas, wrong spelling of long words, confusion in the use of the words "that" and "which," because those lapses can be attributed to deadline pressure.

When the mistakes are substantial, for example, they involve syntax, prepositions and verb and noun agreement, the reports have to be done all over again to make sure the readers get their money's worth when they read them. This probably explains why many editors suffer from high blood pressure or premature hair loss, or both.

Work ethic

Next on the list of desirable traits of reporters is a "nose for news." Or the ability to look for events that would be of interest to the readers or ought to be known by them.

Not everything that happens in a reporter's beat deserves to be written about. Gossip and rumor are better left to the columnists. Their articles do not necessarily carry the seal of truth that newspapers are obliged to stamp on their news reports.

The reporter should know the possible sources of news for his beat. If he relies on handouts or press releases, the editors might as well keep the PR personnel of the political and social personalities in the newspaper payroll. Besides, those canned materials only present the side of their issuers and can never be considered a source of credible news reports.

The editors can only do so much in suggesting to the reporter where and how to get the news. Once the reporter goes to his beat, it is up to him to look around, talk to the staff or read the written materials posted at bulletin boards to find the leads he needs to start his search for the news that readers have the right to know.

Unlike regular office employees, the working hours of reporters depend on the exigencies of their assigned beats. Newsworthy events can happen any time of the day or night. Reporters who cover government offices that observe the "9 a.m. to 5 p.m." routine are, more or less, assured of eating dinner at home every day or having their weekends to themselves.

That privilege, however, cannot be claimed by reporters tasked with monitoring the activities of particular military or police units or offices that are on-call 24 hours a day to render basic government services to the public. Woe to the reporter who, because of negligence or laziness, is "outscooped" by his colleagues from competing newspapers in reporting events in these beats. He will find himself transferred to the editorial doghouse.

Compensation

Now, let's talk about the compensation of reporters. If the journalism graduate thinks he can lead a millionaire's life on a reporter's salary, perish the thought. He is better off looking for other jobs. The reporter has to learn to live within the compensation scheme that his newspaper can offer him.

Because of the low pay, some reporters reportedly engage in some "sideline" with political or social personalities who want to see their names and faces in the newspaper more often. On the short term, this arrangement may escape the eyes of newspaper management. But sooner or later, word about it will leak out and the reporter concerned will eventually find himself banished to less prominent beats or, worse, given his walking papers.

So what motivates reporters into plodding on in spite of the material limitations of the job? For one, there is the joy of seeing their bylines on the pages of the newspaper. The presence of their names is an indication that they have written a report that is fit to be read by other people. Who was it who said that news reports are the first edition of a country's history?

Then there is the feeling of importance that reporters get whenever government officials or private businessmen seek them out if they want their names or pictures to come out in the newspaper. This ego boost cannot be found in other professions.

If the journalism students reading this column think they have what it takes to be reporters, I wish them all the best in the world in pursuing their dream.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The big news, the wish list

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

JOLO residents were in the midst of wondering aloud what was hitting them month after month each time they got their electric bills where an item printed "PPA" almost doubled the charges for the actual consumption.

Why on earth were they supposed to pay the PPA, they asked the local Napocor and the electric cooperative through Vice Mayor Delma Ynawat who has been going back and forth to Manila, writing countless letters to anyone who could give the answers and bring some rationality to a rather desperate situation, only to be informed that we were not being charged the PPA (power purchase adjustment), but the FCA (fuel cost adjustment). Huh? At 90 percent of the charges on consumption?

And for electric power that has one of the highest, if not the highest rate in the country, that is here this moment and gone the next? Unannounced, unexpected shutdowns that suddenly hit you like a blow on the head when you're minding your syntax as you beat the deadline for your column, or throw you into pitch darkness when you're in the middle of the room without any flashlight, candle or even a match?

I can't count how many unsolved murders, unfulfilled romances, unresolved mysteries, unrevealed identities, unfired guns I have watched on television, all aborted with the finality of a blackened screen.

Believe me, this is true: I used to wear a penlight hanging like a pendant on a string around my neck each evening when the deep purple fell over my sleepy garden wall, until I discovered that there was such a thing as a fluorescent lantern.

This is my fourth PC. The past three all gave up the ghost because of the constant improper shutdown. And I will spare you the list of would-be masterpieces aborted, deleted, lost forever.

But back to the power service. During one of the numerous radio discussions about the electric power problem, a consumer suggested the requisition of a standby power barge. The Napocor representative quickly replied that Jolo did not have a mooring facility!

I'm almost afraid to ask: Can't we construct one?

And then last week, in the midst of all this, as sudden, as unexpected as the power shutdown, the big news broke out: the President had approved the holding of Balikatan 03-1 in Jolo.

The US Marines were landing even before we could solve the mind-blowing mystery of how "FCA" was spelled "PPA" over and over again.

And immediately, real life in Jolo replicated cable TV. All else was shunted aside, frozen in time sequence photography, suspended in mid-air, as everyone tried to recover from the suddenness of it all to discuss why they were opposing or supporting the war games that will be conducted here as surely as death, taxes and the PPA.

A "Miswarat (dialogue, discussion) on the Balikatan Exercises" will be held at the provincial convention center the whole day of Feb. 26, organized by the Jihad al Akbar headed by Ustadz Abdul-Muhaimin Abubakar in coordination with the Bus-Bus Peace Promoters-Unesco-Jakarta GenPeace and the JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) headed by Bishop Angelito Lampon, O.M.I., D.D., and jointly sponsored by the Office of the Provincial Governor, HRM Sultan Mohammad Jamalul Kiram III, Office of the Mayor of Jolo and Sulu Rep. Hussin U. Amin of the First District.

National Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and ARMM DILG assistant secretary Abraham Iribani will discuss the "positive aspects" while University of the Philippines Prof. Julkipli Wadi and Ustadz Ibrahim Ghazali will tell us the bad news.

Also set to talk to the multi-sectoral audience are ARMM Gov. Dr. Parouk Hussin, and Sultan Kiram.

From the looks of it, it's going to be serious business and the sectoral representatives—religious, legal, academe, NGOs, youth, LGUs, GOs, military, the Sultanate, the MNLF and women (why are we always last on the list—to have the last word?) will all want to say their piece.

Which is why I hope there won't be any blackout that will suddenly, unexpectedly turn their words into the sound of silence. Not that it's going to make any difference.

Because the latest word from the Pentagon is that the deployment of US troops here, in the words of a local television, is a "done deal." A *fait accompli*, signed, sealed and to be delivered in a matter of days.

But we are told that the deal includes a development package which I hope, unlike the war games itself, will be designed with prior consultation with the people of Sulu.

Please don't give us roads. Just finish the unfinished circumferential one some people have called "the longest road in the country," because it might never get finished.

Don't give us bridges. We had so much of them we didn't know where to put them, we even built one to span a foot-wide stream.

So what do we need? There's not enough space on this whole page to list them all. But if I were to add my own—just one—you guessed it: sufficient and constant electric power to help us see the light in this dark age.

And if by that light it will be possible for us to see the difference between PPA and FCA without the wailing and gnashing of teeth, then that will be a blessing.

Better still, if we don't have to pay it, however it is spelled.

Down with Marcos, but hands off Saddam Hussein

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

FILIPINOS remember this week, the heroic Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the fascist dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. I shall listen intently, since, I am proud to say, I was one of that tyrant dictator's early opponents and prisoners.

As a veteran of the war on Marcos, I would like to hear it said at Edsa tomorrow, with no ifs, buts or maybes, that we are still against fascist dictatorships, and would do everything morally possible to end them, not abet them. The illegitimacy and immorality of a fascist dictatorship do not end at the national borders of it, nor should the human compassion and understanding of Filipinos toward the Iraqi people, who have suffered decades under their own, far worse, Ferdinand Marcos. The sadistic and genocidal record of Saddam Hussein's Iraq makes Marcos' Philippines look like Sunday school in Tariq Aziz's church.

Having attained the precious luxury of being able to say "Never again!" let us not forget a people still living under a brutal fascist dictatorship, who are still wondering after decades, "When will this end, our madman's rule?"

Thirty years ago last September, I was arrested by Marcos' armed Metrocom troops in the middle of a surreal night, over that very issue of "term limits" for dictators. They were led by a colonel who refused to believe that I was not the radical Dean of a law school in Diliman, but a terrorized De La Salle college student who was convinced, his life had less than the night to run. Unable to persuade him that I was a case of mistaken identity, on that very first night of Marcos' martial rule, I became incarcerated at the Camp Crame Hilton of double bunk beds, with Ninoy Aquino, Pepe Diokno, Chino Roces, Haydee Yorac and about a hundred other civil libertarians, reformers, religious people, sectoral activists, journalists and leftist revolutionaries.

All these people surely endured greater suffering at the hands of the new-society Republican Guard than I. For they were far guiltier of the charge that they loved their nation, so much that they would be willing to give the last full measure of devotion to it. And many heroes would, including one, on a certain airport tarmac. But I was not destined to become a hero. After a month in that illustrious company, our warden Fidel Ramos, realized I was an inconsequential nobody, and a drain on the Army's dwindling stocks of *galunggong* and rice for their prisoners, so I was eventually released on condition of exile.

I left for America, whose government then, I hated with every sinew of my being, for its support of the fascist dictator, Marcos, and the unspeakable horrors that would unfold under his cold and clutching hand. But they held an election and Jimmy Carter won. I was on my own, a "little brown brother" swallowed up by the whale of Jonah. I put myself through college. I tore proof sheets in a San Francisco newspaper at night, then delivered them on foot. I was a math tutor to rich kids (little white brothers) and struggling, alcoholic Indian students (little redskin brothers) and Negroes educating themselves out of poverty (little black brothers); and those sharp Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean kids who really didn't need me (little yellow brothers). In America, I learned to love all my brothers, little or not, brown or not.

I went to school by day and worked at night. I was surprised. One day, I graduated. I became a physicist. By some miracle, I won a grant. I went to study at Harvard under the Nobel Laureate Sheldon Glashow. There I studied quasars and quantum mechanics. But he didn't think much of me, and he was right. I married, I worked, I lived. I built X-ray tubes and CT scanners and aircraft engines. I was a crash investigator. I was designing and building superconducting magnets for medical diagnostic imagers, when the Filipino people suddenly overthrew the fascist dictator Marcos in 1986. On her death bed, my mother said to me, it's time to come home, son. So I did.

Today, the great issues of peace or war in Iraq, obscure the irreducible reality of a long lasting fascist dictatorship there. That is completely independent of our debates and our opinions, in the streets and in the Security Council. America's fears, Britain's loyalty, France's reluctance, Russia's hypocrisy, China's greater hypocrisy, Filipino nationalist resentment—all these things are utter non sequiturs to the hideous and ignored suffering of the Iraqi people under the fascist dictator, Saddam. That is the plain and jealous truth, which is cuckolded and shoved aside by those bent on thwarting the British-American bullies and aggressors, who arrogantly dare to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign dictator.

The still unrevealed record of Saddam's sadistic regime, ought not to be off limits for public discussion at the Edsa rites. In preserving peace, we must accept the responsibility for temporarily preserving Saddam's dictatorship, as a perhaps unintended, but unavoidable consequence of it, the "collateral damage of peace." That fact alone is a heavy moral burden on our conscience as we celebrate our own liberation from Saddam's little brown brother monster, Ferdinand Marcos.

Most Filipinos would take decades of Marcos repression before finally doing in 1986 what they should have done in 1972—finally see the truth of Marcos clearly enough to care. So many would fall in the dark crevasse of those intervening years. We, who survived, will never forget those who died in the long eventide of our present liberty. They are still in unknown places, unrevealed and disappeared, places like Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Is peace just an illusion?

CAN we really achieve peace? Is there such a thing in this world of turmoil and uncertainty? Or are we just waiting for a miracle to happen and wish that everything would fall into its proper place?

I for one believe that there's still hope not only for this country but for the world. That is, if we stop being selfish, egoistic and corrupt, not wanting to rule over others but to serve others.

I attended the International Leadership Conference of the Singles for Christ (SFC) community from Feb. 14 to 16, 2003 at the Ultra in Pasig City. It was a three-day conference and not just a reunion of SFC members all over the world, but a call to come back home to God. I was amazed by the presence of more than 6,000 men and women vigorously praising God even on Valentine's Day when they should have been with their loved ones outside the community. You could see their commitment to serve God and pray for peace amid poverty, oppression, inequality/discrimination and conflict.

In his homily, Bishop Soc Villegas said there are only three things necessary to become a saint (or to be a good person): know God, love God and imitate God. It is important that you are aware of God's presence but you must know Him in your heart and in your mind. Then love God with all your will, and allow Him to enter your life. And finally imitate God, and do what you think God wants you to do.

Do you think waging war or involving yourself in the conflict of wars is God's will? Is living a luxurious lifestyle while your fellowmen are dying of hunger the will of God? Before we criticize others, including government's inefficiency in eradicating poverty, we ought to reflect on what we are doing to solve these problems. Or are we contributing to making the situation worse?

These three significant principles might be difficult to follow but if everyone would just open their hearts and minds, then our country (and the rest of the world) will find peace and contentment. And no leader will think that war is the only option.

—MELANIE REYES,
138 M.H. del Pilar St.,
Calumpang, Marikina City

Why exclude graft offenses from AMLA?

I ABSOLUTELY concur with an earlier statement made by the CBCP's Bishop Ramon Arguelles as quoted in a front-page article last Feb. 20, that prevailing personal interests are behind the staunch opposition against the inclusion of graft and corruption provisions as predicate offenses under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA).

Public office is a public trust. No lawmaker or public official should be above the law. It is my opinion that providing this important clause in the existing AMLA will be an effective tool in disciplining people in the government. By finally incorporating graft offenses as one of the predicate crimes, full transparency among public officials will be realized.

Unfortunately, my recommendation was not among those included in the ratified bill, hence my dissenting vote. The three predicate crimes as embodied in the proposed amendments—drug trafficking, transnational crimes and terrorism—may be de rigueur for money launderers but the current bill fails to address the problem of grafters and corrupt men in the government.

To achieve this objective, I have introduced Senate Bill 1599, filed last August 2001, that seeks to exempt all public officials, whether elected or appointed, from the coverage of RA 1405, otherwise known as the Secrecy of Bank Deposits Law. Although I have introduced a subsequent measure, Senate Bill 2040, which seeks to lower the trigger amount to P500,000, I do not believe this proposed amendment is enough to meet the standards set by the Financial Action Task Force or is it able to stop nefarious individuals from engaging in flagitious activities. What we need is a law with greater policing abilities and far-reaching repercussions.

—SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON,
Senate of the Philippines,
Rm. 523, GSIS Financial Center,
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City

Copies of SC decision given to media

I AM writing in connection with Victor Agustin's column, titled "SC rebukes Banco Filipino" last Feb. 17.

Agustin wrote that "strangely, the judgment on Nov. 22, 2002 has not been made public by the Supreme Court even though the high court's website had already posted the December 2002 rulings." He concluded that "the case also shows how big businessmen in this country can get away with the wholesale falsification of commercial documents, receiving only but a censure from the highest court of the land."

First of all, there's nothing strange about the judgment. As soon as it was promulgated, all parties received copies of the decision. As has been the practice of the Court since the establishment of the Public Information Office, members of the media covering the justice beat are immediately informed of all cases duly promulgated and copies of the decision are promptly made available to whoever is interested. The newsworthiness of such pronouncements is left to the press to determine. Apparently, this is one such case which did not pass their test for newsworthiness since it involved a legal quarrel between two entirely private parties.

Secondly, it is gratuitous and rather unfair to conclude that big businessmen get off easy with the "highest court of the land" even if they commit serious violations. It is to be emphasized that the issue before the Court was solely predicated on who had the better right to the property, not any criminal offense affecting the people of the Philippines.

We wish to thank Agustin, however, for stressing that Justice Artemio Panganiban did not take part in the proceedings because he was a counsel of Banco Filipino during the time of Tomas Aguirre. As Justice Panganiban reminded Agustin some months ago, he ceased to be connected in any manner with Banco Filipino upon his appointment to the Supreme Court.

—ISMAEL G. KHAN JR.,
assistant court administrator and chief, Public Information Office,
Supreme Court, Manila

Pensioners should have say in SSS investments

I APPROVE of the modest increase in contribution to the Social Security System starting this year. However, the government should also find other means of improving this agency's solvency through wise investments of its funds, downsizing of its budget and creative management.

Every time there is a change of administration and a new set of officers are appointed to head this agency, the funds are invested in financial institutions and stocks which are favored by the new administration for political reasons. A typical example is what happened during the past administration when the SSS unwisely invested in Equitable-PCIBank shares.

The retired pensioners, who depend only on their SSS pensions but who are the real owners of the fund (not the government and the SSS officers), should protest whenever their funds are in danger of being depleted not only because of low contributions but also due to mismanagement.

I suggest that the President appoint a set of responsible and competent people coming from among the pensioners who will form a majority of the SSS board or act as consultants in sensitive departments like auditing and investment so that they can monitor and help decide where the SSS funds should be invested. This sector is a rich pool of talents with varied experience in auditing, administration and investments.

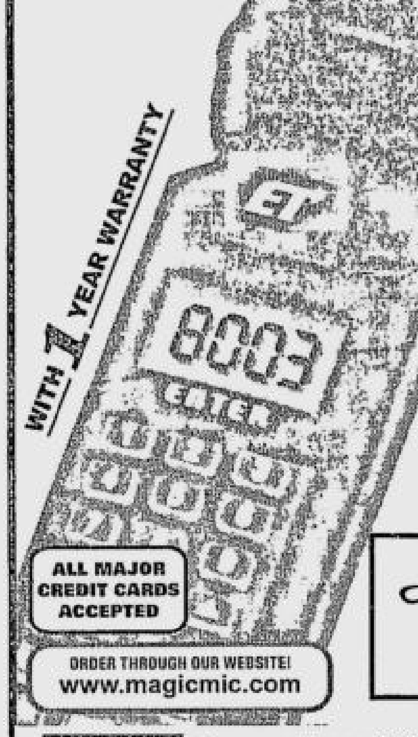
Since the SSS is now experiencing financial difficulties, the management should put in place austerity measures. They can start by rationalizing what the newspapers call the fat salaries of its officers.

I challenge SSS president Corazon de la Paz, who is known to be competent, not only to adopt creative measures to improve the agency's solvency but also to undertake reforms and enforce discipline in the organization.

—RICARDO U. FERNANDO,
3768 Aster Rd.,
Sun Valley, Parañaque City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



MAGIC SING
VIDEOKE MICROPHONE

We're the FIRST, with the BIGGEST NETWORK & still GROWING!

DISTRIBUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES BY:
in-a-jiffy enterprises

Visit our new SHOWROOM!
G/F Richbelt Terraces
#19 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan
Tel. No.: 722-5527

Duly Licensed by:
PARI
FIGHT MUSIC PIRACY!

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ORDER THROUGH OUR WEBSITE!
www.magicmic.com

Automatic CENTRE
Available at selected branches nationwide

SOGO
Available at selected branches nationwide

Odyssey
THE #1 MUSIC & VIDEO STORE
Available at all branches nationwide

AstroVision
Available at selected branches nationwide

WARNING: Our songchips are NOT compatible with other videoke systems or microphones claiming to have the same features like MAGIC SING.

For Dealership and Wholesale Inquiries Call: 405-0178 • 405-0186 • 405-0189 • 722-5527

International Credentials for Global Employment
[Enroll in Singapore's No.1 I.T. School]

Informatics Certified Professional
Informatics Certified Professional – Creative Web Developer 99 hrs.
Informatics Certified Professional – Internet Application Developer 111 hrs.

ORACLE
Oracle Certified Associate 78 hrs.
Oracle 9i DBA Certified Professional 78 hrs.

Sun microsystems
Sun Certified Programmer for the Java Platform
Sun Certified Developer for the Java Platform
Sun Certified Architect for Java Technologies

xpac
(Executive IT Package)
xPAC Plus for Educators 138 hrs.
xPAC Plus for Accountants 117 hrs.
xPAC Plus for Engineers 93 hrs.
xPAC for Office Workers 51 hrs.
Certified IT eManager 156 hrs.

Professional Certifications
Professional Certification in Info-Comm Technology 12 months
Professional Certification in Information Technology 12 months
Certified Network Professional Program 120 hrs.
Certified Visual Basic Developer Program 126 hrs.
Certified Internet Professional Program 93 hrs.

web studio
Adobe Photoshop 15 hrs.
Macromedia Flash 15 hrs.
Macromedia Dreamweaver 15 hrs.
Macromedia Authorware15 hrs.

The World Recognizes Informatics
INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE
www.informatics.edu.ph • inquiry@informatics.com.ph

BAHRAIN BANGLADESH BELIZE BOTSWANA BRUNEI CAMBODIA CHINA ESTONIA GHANA GREECE HONG KONG INDIA INDONESIA IRAN JAPAN KENYA LAOS MACAU MALAYSIA MALDIVES MAURITIUS MYANMAR NEPAL NIGERIA OMAN PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES ROMANIA SAUDI ARABIA SINGAPORE SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH KOREA SRI LANKA SWEDEN TAIWAN TANZANIA THAILAND UGANDA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM

Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang 771-0364 Makati Center, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera St. 893-4818 Robinsons Place Manila 526-2995 SM City Fairview 418-5136 SM City North Edsa 926-5685 SM Megamall 635-3608 SM Southmall 806-3933 Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall 681-7313 University Belt Center, Tandem Bldg., 313-0084 Authorized Sun Education Centers: Makati Center, SM Megamall, SM Southmall Autodesk Training Centers: SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall [illegible] Centers: Makati Center, SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, University Belt

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US gives UN last chance

POWELL: Time to take action

REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The United States warned that it would give the United Nations a last chance on Iraq, insisting Sunday that the time had come to take action against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Washington would give the world body less than two months to pass a fresh resolution to be unveiled next week and clearing the way for war, President George W. Bush said after talks with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

"Time is short. And this is the chance for the Security Council to show its relevance, and I believe the Security Council will show its relevance because Saddam Hussein has not disarmed," he said after the talks at his Texas ranch.

His stern warning came as Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is on a tour of Asia to drum up support for military action against Saddam, insisted Iraq was clearly in breach of UN demands it destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

"It is time to take action . . . The evidence has been clear they are guilty. (UN Resolution No.) 1441 says they are guilty and 1441 said if they don't fix this, if they don't comply now . . . then serious consequences must flow," Powell said.

"We are reaching that point where serious consequences must flow," he told a press conference in Tokyo after meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi.

Bush—who had called for Resolution No. 1441 in a Sept. 12 speech at the UN headquarters—has repeatedly warned that he will strip Iraq of weapons by force if necessary if the world body fails to act.

Asked about UN weapons inspectors imposing a Mar. 1 deadline for Baghdad to begin destroying banned missiles, Bush said that particular arsenal was just the "tip of the iceberg."

Saddam "has no intention of disarming, otherwise he would have done so," Bush said after he and Aznar held a four-way telephone conversation with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

All four nations have taken a hard line against Iraq, and are coordinating an all-out diplomatic campaign to win the nine votes needed for the 15-member Council to approve the measure.

"We are working in order that the UN Security Council, in its role based on the UN Charter, may work toward peace and security in the world through a new resolution that has the greatest support and majority support," Aznar said through an interpreter.

The Security Council would vote mid-March on the new UN resolution drafted by London and Washington, giving Saddam three weeks to disarm or face war, the British press reported.

The draft would declare Iraq in "material breach" of Resolution No. 1441 and would be presented at the UN on Monday, The Sunday Telegraph and The Observer reported, although this was not confirmed by British or US diplomats.

"The prime minister will expect that there could be a period of a few weeks that will pass before that resolution will be voted on in the UN," Blair's spokesperson told AFP, saying only that the draft would emerge "early next week."

The push by Blair next week would be a "last push for peace," he added.

Powell was due to continue his diplomatic tour with a visit to Beijing, a veto-wielding power in the Security Council, in an effort to win support for a fresh resolution against Iraq. *AFP*

Bush losing fight for world public opinion

WASHINGTON—The battle plan is set for Iraq, but the United States is behind in a public relations campaign to soothe world ire over President George W. Bush's unilateralist tendencies.

The massive anti-war demonstrations last weekend, polls abroad showing a growing unhappiness with US policy and Washington's woes at the United Nations, all add up to a growing distrust of the United States.

Despite the outpouring of international sympathy following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Washington is now paying the price for such unpopular moves as withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and its campaign against the new International Criminal Court.

Bush's "axis of evil" rhetoric and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's gripes about France and Germany's stance as "old Europe," have not helped polish the US image abroad.

According to recent polls, Bush is pushing record unpopularity in Germany. In France eight out of 10 people said they opposed a US-led war against Iraq.

"A little more than one year ago, America was basking in international solidarity generated by the crime of Sept. 11, 2001, and in worldwide admiration for its spectacularly effective military termination of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan," said Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security adviser to former US president Jimmy Carter.

Today, he said, "the cross Atlantic vitriol is unprecedented. There is disarray even among close allies (and) worldwide public opposition to the war," Brzezinski wrote in an op-ed in the Washington Post Wednesday.

In another editorial, this one in Wednesday's New York Times, Thomas Friedman wrote: "It's legitimate for the Bush folks to focus the world on (Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein), but two years of their gratuitous bullying has made many people deaf to America's arguments."

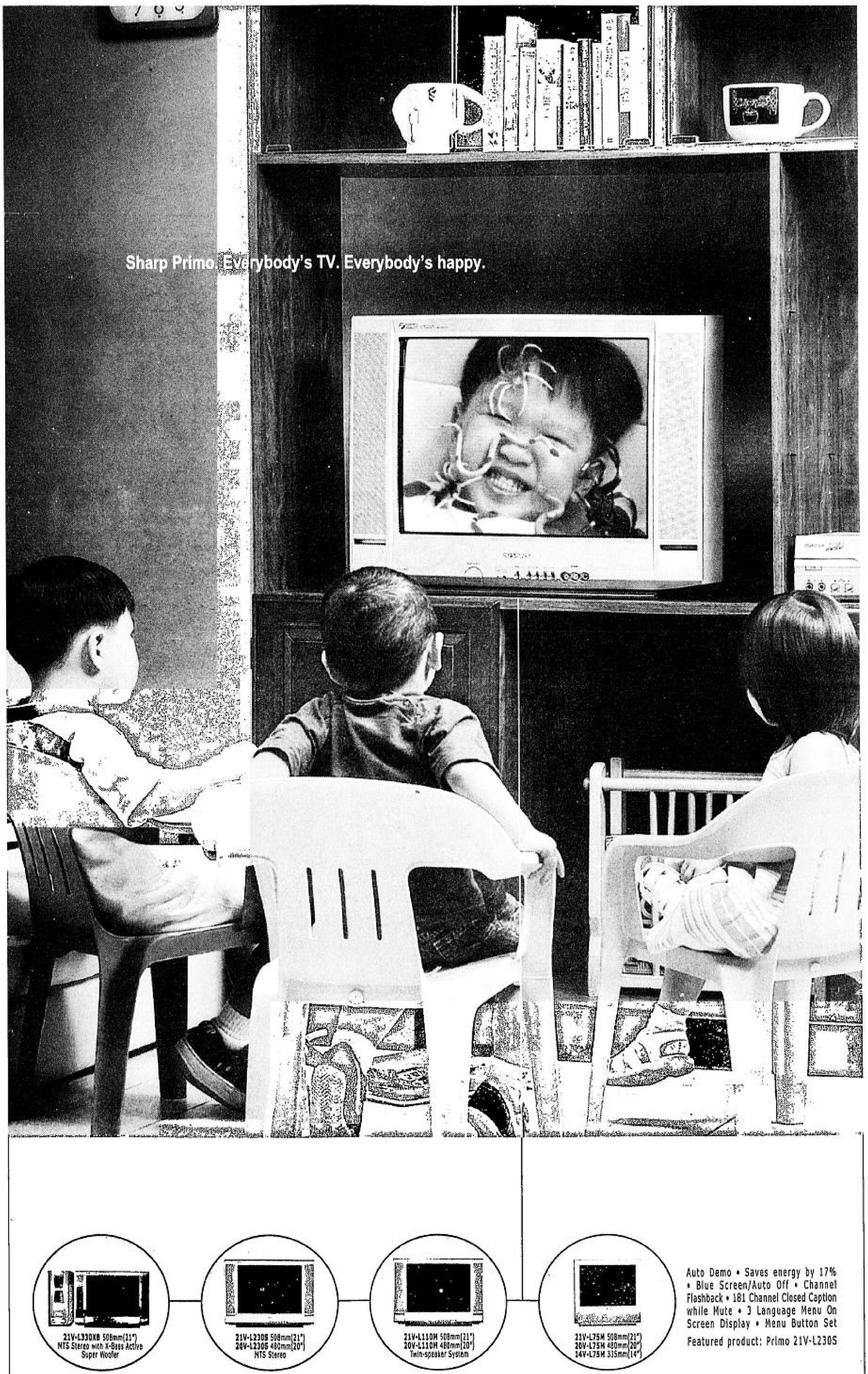
Certain points pushed by the Bush administration, such as the alleged link between Baghdad and the al-Qaida terrorist network, believed responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, have not gone down well abroad, said Lee Feinstein, of the Council on Foreign Relations.

"Most people are not buying it," he said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, criticized for staying home a little too much in recent months, has stepped up interviews with the foreign press to help fight the growing communication deficit.

Rumsfeld said he did not take offense at the massive peace demonstrations, saying they were simply the byproduct of good democracy.

"There are an awful lot more people who didn't demonstrate than who demonstrated. And demonstrations occur in democracies. That's what we do. We have free speech. And that's fine and that's fair. And these are tough issues," Rumsfeld said, adding that the Iraqis themselves had no freedom to demonstrate. *AFP*



21V-L330XB 508mm(21")
MTS Stereo with X-Bass Active Super Woofer

21V-L230S 508mm(21")
20V-L230S 480mm(20")
MTS Stereo

21V-L110M 508mm(21")
20V-L110M 480mm(20")
Twin-speaker System

21V-L75M 508mm(21")
20V-L75M 480mm(20")
14V-L75M 335mm(14")

Auto Demo • Saves energy by 17% • Blue Screen/Auto Off • Channel Flashback • 181 Channel Closed Caption while Mute • 3 Language Menu On Screen Display • Menu Button Set

Featured product: Primo 21V-L230S

SHARP

Visit our website, www.sharp.ph.

TALK 'N TEXT™
GSM®

Nationwidest!

Over 2,800 cellsites!

Lamang ka pa with these exciting features!

- Over 250 zed services to choose from like news, logos, ringtones, traffic updates and so much more!
- Calling and texting to 15 Million GSM subscribers* nationwide!
- New Talk 'N Text Power SIM with 250-entry phonebook memory & 40 SMS capacity!

* Includes GSM carriers aside from Talk 'N Text and Smart.

Yan ang galing without overspending!

For inquiries, please call (02)888-1111(GMA), 1-800-1888-2220(Vis/Min) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

TALK 'N TEXT™
GSM

Call & Text over
15 Million
GSM Subscribers*

Lamang ka pa with these exciting features!

- Nationwidest coverage with over 2,800 cellsites!
- Over 250 zed services to choose from like news, logos, ringtones, traffic updates and so much more!
- New Talk 'N Text Power SIM with 250-entry phonebook memory & 40 SMS capacity!

* Includes GSM carriers aside from Talk 'N Text and Smart.

Yan ang galing without overspending!

For inquries, please call (02)888-1111(GMA), 1-800-1888-2220(Vis/Min) or *888 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

Criticisms rise on Thai drugs war

BANGKOK—Thailand's opposition added its voice on Sunday to mounting criticism of the government's drugs war, which has left hundreds of suspects dead since it was declared Feb. 1.

Under Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's crackdown policies, provincial officials have reportedly been given blacklists of suspects and been ordered to arrest at least a quarter of them by Feb. 28.

"When the government sends a signal to officials that the suppression (of drugs) should be taken more seriously, then the number of killings in each province will grow higher because they have to kill more to produce the numbers," opposition leader Chuan Leekpai told reporters.

"People might feel satisfied about drug dealers being killed but they are not thinking about the law."

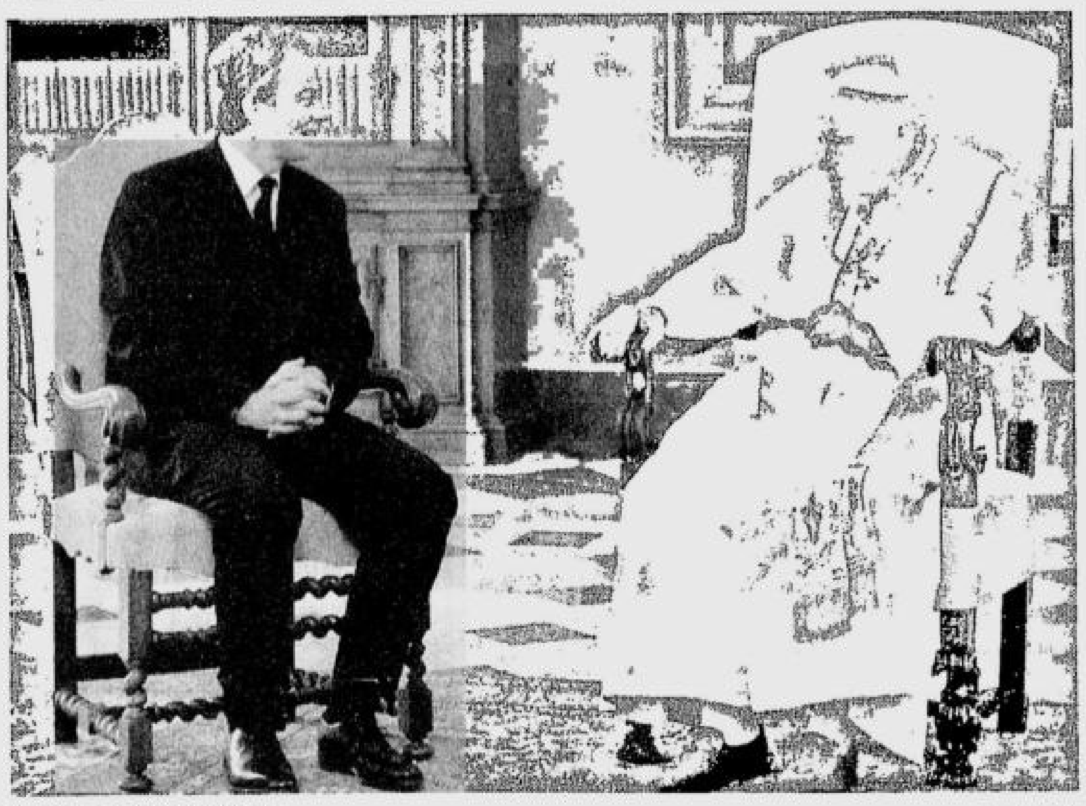
Police said at the weekend that they had shot dead 22 drug suspects since the anti-drugs blitz began three weeks earlier. Three police were also killed.

Thailand's interior ministry announced Tuesday that 588 alleged traffickers had been killed by drug gang members since the start of the self-declared war on drugs, which is due to continue for three months and is aimed specifically at methamphetamines.

No update on the interior ministry toll is expected until Friday, but dozens more drugs-related deaths have been splashed across the Thai media.

More than 21,000 drugs suspects have also been arrested and 8.5 million methamphetamine pills seized in the war. The seizures barely make a dent in the billion pills expected by Thai authorities to flood the market this year, mostly from factories in Burma.

Banharn Silpa-archa, leader of the coalition Chart Thai party, also condemned at the weekend the policy of pressuring officials for results. *AFP*



BLAIR MEETS POPE GETTY IMAGES

Pope John Paul II meets with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at his private library on Feb. 22 in Vatican City to discuss the Iraqi crisis. Blair is in Italy with his family and plans to return to London on Feb. 23.

Arabs, Muslims denounce US administration of Iraq

CAIRO—US plans to set up a temporary military administration in Iraq following the anticipated ouster of President Saddam Husssein's regime have been widely denounced in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

"The United States must stick to the date it plans to pull its military out of Iraq if it wants to avoid having entire populations turn against it," said Gulf expert Hasni Abidi, who runs the Geneva-based Center for Research on the Arab World and Mediterranean.

Abidi said Powell and the Pentagon were divided on how to deal with a post-Saddam Iraq. "The former wants a brief military presence, the latter wants to give the Army wider sway to reduce pockets of resistance and make Iraq peaceful," he said.

For his part, Adnan Pachachi, a former Iraqi foreign minister tipped as a future leader by US media, rejected plans for a military administration in Baghdad in an interview with AFP last week.

Pachachi said he preferred a UN mandate and a "civilian Iraqi leadership to manage Iraq during the transitional period."

"After or before the US offensive in Iraq," the UN Security Council should adopt a new resolution "giving the UN secretary general the ability to name a representative in Iraq to cooperate with the civilian Iraqi administration," he said.

The US plan was also dismissed by Ahmad Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) umbrella opposition group as "unworkable and unwise."

"American help is essential—and is welcomed—in winning the fight" Ahmad Chalabi wrote in the Wall Street Journal, "but the liberation of our country and its reintegration into the world community is ultimately a task that we Iraqis must shoulder."

Iran, a key regional power, warned the Security Council on Tuesday that an attack on Iraq would inevitably benefit extremism, especially if a US military commander were put in charge of the Islamic country.

"But one outcome is almost certain: extremism stands to gain enormously from an uncalculated adventure in Iraq," said Iran Ambassador Javad Zarif, whose country risks being surrounded by US forces in Afghanistan to the east and Iraq to the west. *AFP*

NAM to urge Nokor to return to nuclear treaty

KUALA LUMPUR—The 114-nation Non-Aligned Movement plans to urge North Korea to return to a key nuclear treaty, and call on Washington and Pyongyang to peacefully resolve the standoff over the communist state's nuclear development, officials said Sunday.

North Korea has agreed to include in a summit declaration wording that urges Pyongyang to reverse its Jan. 10 decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, two delegates from separate countries said on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear why Pyongyang would agree to this wording. Earlier, delegates at the Non-Aligned Movement conference here said that North Korea had rejected their calls to reenter the treaty. The country's delegation declined to discuss the issue with reporters.

"(The draft declaration) also urges parties concerned to resolve the tension peacefully," said another delegate involved in talks on the statement, adding that the parties refer to "the United States and North Korea."

Pyongyang insists on direct talks with Washington to resolve the tension, but the United States rules out such talks until North Korea abandons its suspected nuclear weapons development.

Seniors diplomats of the movement, representing 55 percent of the world's people and nearly two-thirds of the United Nations, were to discuss the issue further before a final document was adopted Tuesday by the group's leaders.

Tensions over suspected development of weapons of mass destruction by North Korea, as well as Iraq, have dominated preparatory talks for the summit.

MEGAWATI AP

Pyongyang had insisted that the movement condemn Washington for causing the nuclear crisis, but some leading states resisted that demand, the delegates said.

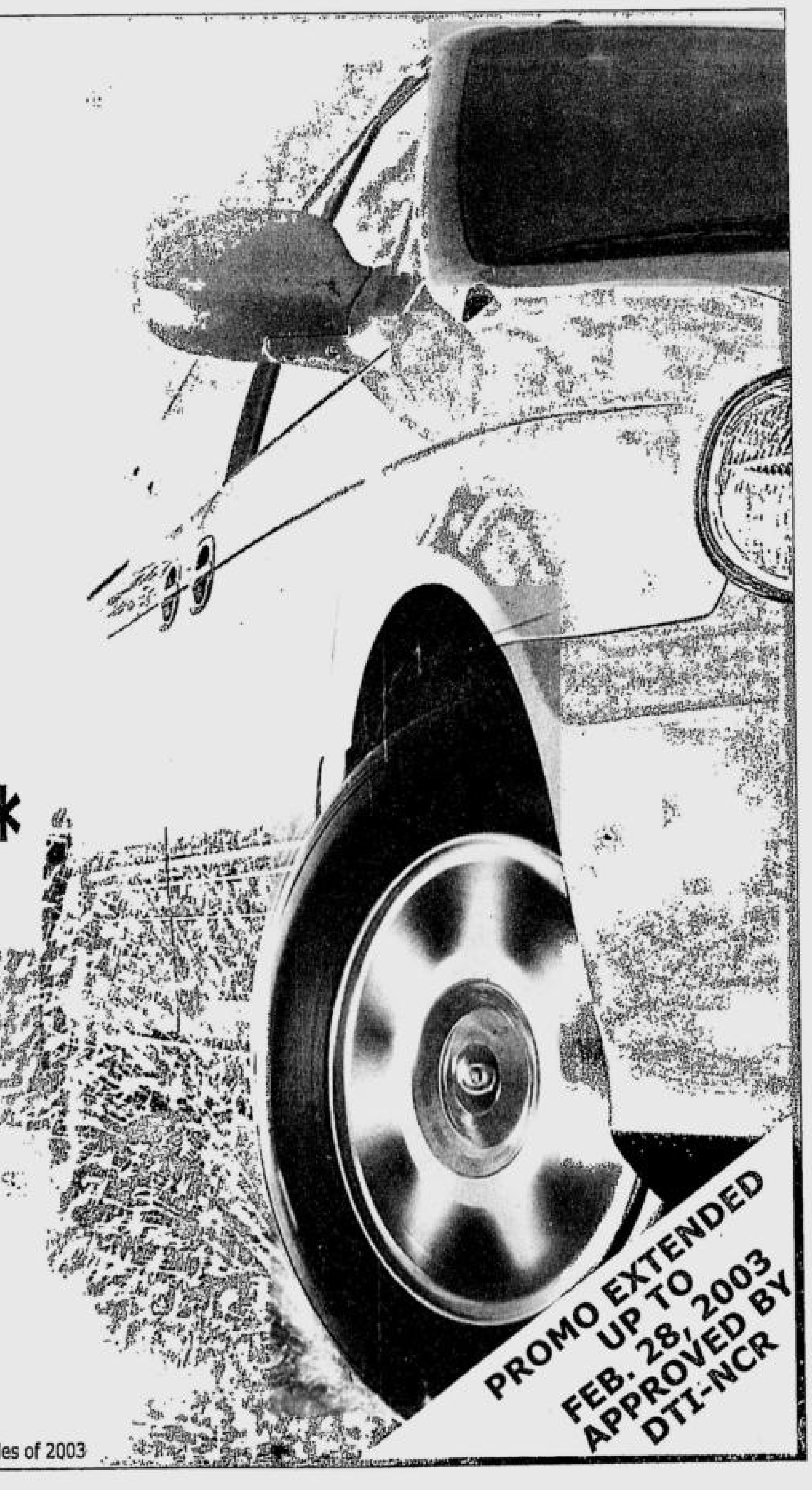
North Korea accuses the United States of inciting the nuclear crisis as a pretext for an invasion, and wants a nonaggression pact. Washington says it wants to settle the issue peacefully, while insisting talks should be in a multilateral setting.

Indonesia hopes to play a mediating role between Washington and Pyongyang.

At Pyongyang's request, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri met Sunday with North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong-nam, on the summit sidelines to discuss ways to defuse the nuclear tensions. Neither leader made any comment after the meeting.

Megawati sent a special envoy to Pyongyang last month to try to settle the nuclear dispute.

The crisis began last October when US officials said that Pyongyang admitted to having a covert nuclear program. Washington and its allies suspended fuel shipment to North Korea as punishment, and Pyongyang retaliated by expelling UN monitors and pulling out of the treaty. *AP*



Vividly DVD.

Free with the 2003

SEDONA

Cash or regular financing.*

LS or RS. Your choice. Your SEDONA.

- Euro I - compliant
- 2.9 liter turbodiesel intercooler engine
- 5-stars safety rated by the US NHTSA
- Longest 3 yrs./110,000 kms. warranty

KIA

Kia Motors Philippines

PROMO EXTENDED UP TO FEB. 28, 2003 APPROVED BY DTI-NCR

RS - SRP P905,000 M/T **LS - SRP - P1,115,000 A/T**

Inquire about special financing packages available - Zero Interest, 50% DP, 12 months to pay.

*Subject to bank approval Promo period: January 13 to 31, 2003 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0027, Series of 2003

Get your vivid Sedona at these authorized dealers:

METRO MANILA

KIA PASAY (KIA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
2316 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City
Tels 682-1652•851-1801

KIA BALINTAWAK (BIGNET BALINTAWAK)
1240 EDSA, Balintawak, Q. C. Tels 361-0544 •330-3019•330-6670 Fax 362-8387
Makati Showroom: 2241 La Fuerza Plaza, Pasong Tamo St. Tels 817-8406/16/17/21

KIA COMMONWEALTH (PRINCE MOTOR CORP.)
43 Commonwealth Avenue, Q. C.
Tels 951-2201 to 16•453-9318 to 20

KIA QUIRINO AVE. (VELCOR AUTO HAUS, INC.)
1170-1180 Pres. Quirino Ave. Ext. Paco, Manila
Tels 863-2282 to 87 Fax 862-1659

KIA MANDALUYONG (BIGNET MANDALUYONG)
79 EDSA Mandaluyong, M. M. Tels 531-4631 to 33 •531-4424•531-1949 Almanza Branch: (in front of SM South) Tels •801-7656•806-2230•806-2235• 801-7668•802-1024•806-2229•806-1390

KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
332 Sumulong Highway Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal Tel 682-8580 - 81 Telefax 682-8539

KIA NEW MANILA (WHEELS, INC.)
222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q. C. (near St. Luke's Hospital) Tels 721-8466•721-8465 •721-8448• 4113406 Quezon Ave. Branch: 602 Quezon Ave., Q. C. Tels 712-2923•712-2926•743-6707

LUZON

KIA BATANGAS-LAGUNA
(BATANGAS-LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Main: Pres. Laurel Highway Crossing, Sto. Tomas Batangas Tels (043) 778-4214 to 17

KIA CAVITE (KIA MOTORS CAVITE)
Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite Cel No. (046) 417-0795 KIA Biñan: Arazo Bldg. 2 National Highway, Bgy. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna (Beside Golden City Subd.) Tels (02) 620-8241•(049) 411-0139

KIA DAGUPAN (METRO-DAGUPAN AUTOCENTER, INC.)
McArthur Highway, San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tels (075) 522-8805 to 06

KIA LA UNION (AMIANAN AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Main: National Highway, Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union 2500 Tels. (072) 700-8888•Telefax (072) 700-8881

KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Gapan-Olongapo Road, San Fernando, Pampanga Tels (045) 961-1485•(045) 961-3926•961-1486 Cell No. (0912) 330-3231 Dau Branch: Max Building, Dau Exit, Mabalacat, Pampanga Tel (045) 892-3654
KIA Tarlac: McArthur Highway, San Rafael, Tarlac Tels. (045) 982-2423

VISAYAS & MINDANAO

KIA CEBU (GATEWAY MOTORS CORP.)
417 A. Cortes Ave., Mandaue City Tels. (032) 344-3815•(032) 344-3665•(032) 346-7289
Fax (032)346-7289

KIA BACOLOD (877 MOTOR CORP.)
D.C. Cruz Building, Magsaysay St., Singcang Bacolod City Telefax (034)4322628

KIA CAGAYAN DE ORO (STERLING MOTOR CORP.)
Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City
Tels. (088)855-5600, (088)855-6100, (08822)733207

KIA DAVAO (RS AUTOSPHERE CORP.)
Km. 7 J. P. Laurel Ave., Lanang, Davao City Tels. (082) 234-0057 to 58 Fax (082) 234-2434

KIA DIPOLOG
(WESTERN MINDANAO AUTOMOTIVE CORP.)
(also known as CHEVY CENTER) National Highway, Sta Isabel, Dipolog City Tels. (065)212-5897
Fax (065)212-2865

KIA ILOILO (KIA MOTORS Metro Iloilo)
Brgy. Tagbac (beside Metropolis) Jaro, Iloilo City
Tels. (033)329-2888•(033) 329-2222•(033) 329-4630
Fax (033)329-6257

Russia turns back on its bloody past

MOSCOW—Germany has owned up to its Nazi past. South Africa has offered its nonwhites truth and reconciliation. The Pope has apologized for the Inquisition. But the victims of Stalinist repression will have to wait a long time yet before the Russian state says sorry.

Fifty years since Joseph Stalin's death, there is "no chance" in the foreseeable future of Russian authorities offering an apology for the crimes of their Soviet predecessors, said Alexander Yakovlev, the former communist apparatchik who has taken on himself the lonely role of Russia's conscience, agonizing over its blood-stained past.

Yakovlev, Mikhail Gorbachev's advisor in the days when the Soviet leader was winding down the Cold War, has spent more than a decade combing through the horrors of the Kremlin and KGB archives as head of a presidential commission on the victims of Soviet-era political repression.

He first floated the idea of an official apology in 1996. "I wrote an open letter with this suggestion. It drew almost no response," he recalled.

If and when an apology comes for the millions who died in the Soviet years, Yakovlev said, "it will be made by someone who was not involved in the repression, someone who is prepared to take on the sins of his predecessors."

With former KGB colonel Vladimir Putin ensconced in the Kremlin and a racing certainty for reelection next year, the prospect of the Russian state acknowledging its inheritance can be ruled out for at least another five years.

"There has been no de-Bolshevisation comparable with the de-Nazification in Germany. The issues aren't even being talked about," Yakovlev said.

He is on the point of publishing 30 hefty volumes of formerly classified documents from state and KGB archives dealing with various aspects of the decades of repression, to be distributed free to universities. But he doubts he will find much of an audience outside the academe.

The Russian public, he noted, "appears unable to absorb this knowledge. It's as if they don't want to know." He recalled a trip made a few years ago to the former prison camp at Magadan, in Russia's frozen Far East, to inaugurate a memorial to the camp's victims.

Accompanied by Ernst Neizvestny, the world-renowned sculptor who had designed the memorial, he was heckled as he began to speak by a resentful crowd of former camp employees.

"Half of them lost their jobs—relatively well-paid jobs—when the gulag was wound up. Millions of people served the system and had an interest in keeping it going. Guards, clerks, cooks . . . There was a huge, hidden structure. All these people are implicated."

Yakovlev's slow awakening from blind belief in the Soviet ideal began in 1946 when, as a young war veteran, he witnessed the return of Soviet POWs from Germany, passing by train through his hometown of Yaroslavl, 300 km northeast of Moscow, on their way to the labor camps to pay the price of involuntary contact with the West.

The incident is recounted in his recently published requisitory "A Century of Violence in Soviet Russia," a closely documented indictment of the crimes not simply of Stalin and his henchmen but also of Lenin, the organizer of the 1917 October Revolution and founder of the Soviet state.

Yakovlev implacably destroys the widespread myth that Lenin's intentions were good but subverted after his death by a paranoid Stalin.

It was Lenin, not Stalin, who ordered massive summary executions—"the more priests you can shoot, the better," he is quoted as saying in one incident—and introduced forced labor camps and systematic arrests.

"Stalin always said he was only a student" compared with Lenin, Yakovlev noted grimly.

He spoke harshly of Russia's current rulers, "a party of functionaries, most of them corrupt."

One of the most alarming continuities between the Soviet era and today's Russia, he said, was "the bureaucratic power that these people exercise, at all levels, from the ministries to the village, with no respect for law." *AFP*

"I'M SURE with Amargozin Ampalaya Capsule."

Edu Manzano
TV & Movie Personality

I'm sure! It's the **MAKILING VARIETY.**

I'm sure! It's **PESTICIDE FREE.**

I'm sure! It's made by a **PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY.**

Amargozin is made from the Makiling variety, the most researched local variety by NIRPROMP, PCHRD-Department of Science & Technology.

The Makiling variety ampalaya is nurtured in organic and environment-friendly farms. No chemical pesticides, no chemical fertilizers.

Amargozin is processed in a BFAD-licensed pharmaceutical facility, which complies with c-GMP (Current Good Manufacturing Practice) standards.

Amargozin AMPALAYA CAPSULE 500 mg

NO CHEMICAL PESTICIDES
NO CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

NOW, THAT'S ORGANIC!

Nature's Answer To Diabetes

Marketed by ALTERMED CORPORATION

Manufactured by Pascual Laboratories, Inc.

For inquiries, please call Altermed Hotline: 411-9907 • 920-1911

Available at all mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

Israeli tanks enter Gaza town; 3 dead

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops backed by more than a dozen Israeli tanks and several attack helicopters pushed into the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. At least three Palestinians were killed, hospital officials said.

The tanks fired on a house and blocked roads, as soldiers using loudspeakers imposed a curfew, confining residents to their homes, witnesses said. Three Palestinians were killed and about seven were wounded, hospital officials said. The circumstances of the deaths were unclear.

Israeli troops have targeted Gaza, where they say there is a terrorist infrastructure. The troops have arrested suspected militants and blown up factories where they say bombs and weapons are made. On Sunday, troops destroyed three homes of suspected militants.

Beit Hanoun is in the northeast corner of Gaza, opposite the Israeli town of Sderot. Last week, Palestinians fired homemade Qassam rockets at Sderot, injuring an Israeli. That followed an Israeli incursion into Gaza City, in which 11 Palestinians were killed.

On Sunday, near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, at least one armed Palestinian was killed as he approached the settlement. The Army said the Palestinian opened fire at troops in the area who returned fire. He was found with an assault rifle and four grenades, the Army said.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli troops withdrew from the city's center following four days of intensive searches.

At least seven people died during clashes in Nablus. A 14 year old, who was critically wounded on Saturday, died early Sunday.

On Saturday, the Army said soldiers shot and killed Sami Haloweh, 42, a furniture shop owner in Nablus, when they spotted an object in his hand. Israeli soldiers also killed Walid El-Masri, 22, after he and others lobbed firebombs and rocks at soldiers.

In the United States, one of eight men indicted in Florida on terrorism-related charges denied involvement with the Islamic Jihad group.

He told The Associated Press on Saturday that he was a teacher of Islam but never was part of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a group the US government calls a terrorist organization.

"I was surprised by the whole allegation. I have no political connections to any political groups now," said Abdel Aziz Awda, 52, one of those indicted who lives in Gaza. "I don't understand what the claims are against me. Where did I break any laws, can they prove it?"

The 50-count indictment lists 14 bombings and attacks associated with the group, including a suicide attack in Haifa last June that killed 20. *AP*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective March 15, 2003, the new National Direct Dialing (NDD) rate for all landline to landline calls originating from Globelines Prepaid and Globe Payphones will be ₱5.00 per minute (inclusive of 10% VAT).

Globelines PREPAID

GLOBE TELCARD Your pocket-friendly payphone card

A SERVICE OF GLOBE TELECOM AND ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom

* Globelines and Globe Telcard are trademarks used by Isla Communications under license from Globe Telecom.

Reward the fresh graduate with

Philippine Airlines Swingaround HONG KONG

Embark on an amazing journey with Philippine Airlines' Swingaround Hong Kong Graduation Package. Experience the wonders of the City of Life for the whole month of March 2003.

For as low as US$198*

The Swingaround Hong Kong package includes:

- Round-trip Fiesta Class airfare
- Hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast (for Kowloon side hotels only)
- Airport-hotel-airport transfers
- Hong Kong and Shenzen city tour with free 24-K gold keychain

Free entry passes to the Hong Kong Museum of History's Hong Kong Story will be given as a special graduation gift for the first 300 passengers. Also, the first 100 passengers will receive a free travel bag from the Hong Kong Tourism Board upon arrival.

*Per person–subject to change

City of Life Hong Kong is it!

DiscoverHongKong.com

Call PAL Reservations at (02)855-8888 or your travel agent.

Philippine Airlines

It's about experience

www.philippineairlines.com

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

ROUNDUP

Cops find 3 bodies

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police found the bodies of three people, including a woman, in San Miguel town on Thursday, reports reaching this camp showed. Supt. Pablo Ochoco, San Miguel police chief, identified the victims as Niño Soriano, 35; Caglelito Munsayac, 35; and Lina Atacador, 40, all of Nueva Ecija. The victims bore bullet wounds in the bodies, were blindfolded and their hands tied with cloth. Ochoco said the victims could have been killed elsewhere by members of a Nueva Ecija-based vigilante group before their bodies were dumped in Barangay Sacdalan, San Miguel. A message from the RPA-ABB-RVG (Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade-Red Vigilante Group) was found near the bodies, accusing the victims of involvement in illegal drug trading and other crimes. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ex-NPA rebel gunned down

MEXICO, Pampanga—A former member of the New People's Army was gunned down in Barangay Acli here on Wednesday. Reports said the victim, identified by police as Amado Sampang, was talking with a village-mate when at least seven men wearing bonnets and ski masks arrived and shot him. Recovered from the scene were four empty shells of M-16 and M-14 bullets.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Driver's remains exhumed

BALANGA CITY—Police on Thursday dug up the remains of a driver who was abducted in May last year. Senior Supt. Sahiron Salim, Bataan police director, said the remains of Macario Dejeya, 32, of San Rafael, Bulacan, were exhumed in Barangay Bamban in Hermosa town. Reports said Manuel Dejeya, a relative of the victim and legal officer of the National Bureau of Investigation, asked the Hermosa police to help him find Dejeya's body. Police reports did not provide details of the abduction, but Salim said a suspect helped lawmen trace the location of his grave.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Volunteer kills cop

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—A policeman was shot and killed by a law enforcement volunteer in a police substation in Barangay Gundaway here on Thursday. Reports said Glenn Rodriguez, a volunteer of the local police, shot PO2 Rene Aducay after an argument. Investigators said the killing could have been triggered by an old grudge between Rodriguez and Aducay.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Food supply in case of war

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—In case war breaks out in Iraq, there's nothing to worry about food supply in the country, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said. "We have a big food inventory. Don't worry about it," he said. He emphasized that food supply would continuously flow to residents of urban centers in case war erupts. Lorenzo met the presidents of agricultural state universities and colleges (SUCs) and their agriculture and fisheries experts at the Central Luzon State University here last week.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Globe tower project

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—A judge on Feb. 12 dismissed a move of residents to stop the construction of a cell site tower of Globe Telecommunications Inc. in Barangay Quirino here. In his decision, Judge Jose Rosales of the regional trial court here cited the failure of the residents to substantiate their allegations of health, safety and security risks that would be brought about by the operation of the tower. Earlier, several residents sought a court order to stop the construction of the facility that began in May last year.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Rebels kill barangay chair

IBA, Zambales—Suspected New People's Army rebels gunned down a village chief in front of his wife and their 2-year-old son in Barangay Sta. Barbara here last week, police said. Reports identified the victim as Mario Payumo, 38, local barangay chair and president of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) in this town. His assailants took Payumo's M-14 rifle, a shotgun, a cellular phone and a handheld radio, reports said.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cop linked to killings yields

BAGUIO CITY—A policeman, who was among the suspects in the murder of four persons in San Juan, Abra, in October last year, surrendered to the police last week. PO1 Joselito Tagudar said he gave up because he wanted to clear his name. He denied participation in the killing and said he was in his post in Camp Dangwa in Benguet during the incident. According to police reports, residents of Barangay Barbarsik were attending the wake of Carmen Daganatu when three men fired at the crowd at about 11 p.m. of Oct. 4. Killed instantly were 8-year-old Rogie Montorio and Erik Pacurza, Algie Pacurza and John Bersamin. At least 12 others were hurt.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 NPA 'hit men' captured

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two members of a New People's Army hit squad targeting top military officials were captured recently in Nueva Ecija. They were identified as Cesar Santos, alias Ka Jay-ar, and Mar Esguerra, alias Ka Deo, both of Rizal town. Col. Jovenal Narcise, head of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said the rebels were captured after soldiers raided their safehouse at Barangay Poblacion in Rizal. Narcise said one Magiting Badua, alias Ka Meg or Randy, was wounded after a brief gunfight. Badua escaped by jumping into an irrigation channel.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

HOUSE INQUIRY

Iloilo airport project probed

By Ma. Diosa Labiste, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—They may have smelled an anomaly, but it is another thing to pinpoint if somebody really made money from the construction of a new airport in Iloilo.

Five congressmen presided over an inquiry into alleged anomalies in the P6.5-billion airport project, but they had yet to find proof that Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas was involved.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communication, presided over the day-long investigation last Feb. 19. He was joined by Representatives Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, Benasing Macarambon Jr. of Lanao del Sur, and Teodoro Locsin Jr. of Makati City.

Also present were Iloilo Representatives Arthur Defensor, Rolex Suplico and Augusto Syjuco.

The inquiry was triggered by Syjuco's allegations in a privileged speech on Jan. 28 that Tupas had a hand in the overpricing of a relocation site for the affected families, from P40 per square meter to P100.

Syjuco also claimed that the governor was to earn P700 million from the issuance of quarry permits for a borrow pit, among others. The burrow pit is where tons of landfill materials will be brought when construction of the airport starts in June.

About 55 families will be displaced by the world-class airport project in Barangay Tiring, between the towns of Sta. Barbara and Cabatuan, Iloilo. Their relocation site, according to Syjuco, is an old riverbed in Barangay Banguit, Cabatuan town.

During the House committee's inquiry, Syjuco's allegations failed to hit their mark.

It was noted that the relocation site was chosen, not by Tupas, but by a committee on relocation created by the Department of Transportation and Communication as overseer of the airport project. Three of the 12 proposed sites were chosen, and, finally, the lot of Manuel Montano was selected and bought in October last year.

It was Cabatuan's municipal government that first approached Montano in November 2001 about the deal. Montano was selling his land, with an area of 5.4 hectares, at P40 per sqm. Six months later, the provincial assessor and the Bureau of Internal Revenue placed the value of the property at only P12 per sqm.

In June 2001, the DOTC made a first offer at P12 per sqm to Montano, but he refused and instead made a counter-offer of P150.

About that time, lot owners at the airport site had already settled for P65 per sqm, the final offer of the DOTC.

In August last year, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines were asked to appraise Montano's lot. Both banks valued it at P100 per sqm, noting that it was only one or two km from the town market, church and schools. Electricity, water supply and telephone lines were available.

The property is also located near the national road from Cabatuan to Iloilo City. That same month, the DOTC made its final offer of P100 and Montano accepted it.

The lot includes the riverbed of the Tigum River, but the DOTC did not buy that portion and the 20-m easement from the bank.

Montano received P2.8 million for his lot after final negotiations between the DOTC and Cabatuan Mayor Ramon Yee, who chairs the airport relocation committee, in August last year.

Although he was present during the committee meeting, Tupas did not participate in the negotiations.

After the sale, Montano said he gave P20,000 to Yee as a "sign of gratitude," but the latter returned the money, saying he was only doing his job.

Lawmakers who attended the House committee's public hearing said they wanted to know who decided to buy Montano's property at P100 per sqm when it could be bought for a lower price.

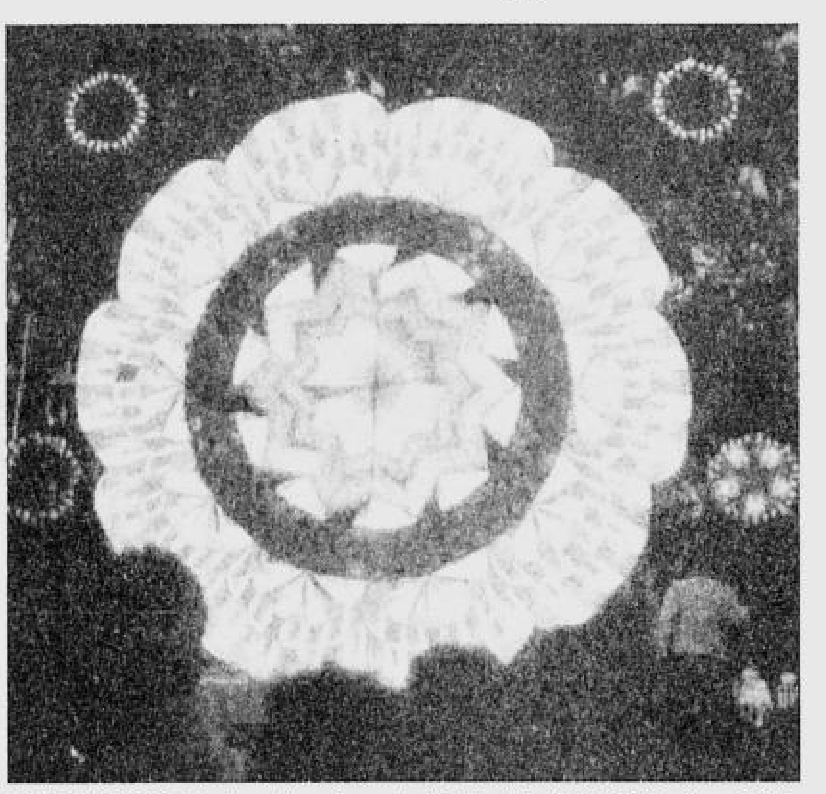
Among those who were sore at the choice was the Airport Concerned Alliance (ACA), a group initially opposed to the project but later joined the negotiations for land pricing and relocation site.

Paras and Defensor said they needed the statements of DOTC's Luis Manuel Vertucio, who chairs the committee for acquisition of the airport and relocation site, to determine who gave the green light to buy the property.

Tupas told the lawmakers that Syjuco's accusations were baseless because these were "mere speculations and conjectures.'"

RP 'parol' a hit in Taiwan festival

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk



THE PHILIPPINE lantern "performs" nightly at the Visit Philippines 2003 Float of the Department of Tourism in Taichung City in Taiwan.

TONETTE OREJAS

TAICHUNG CITY, Taiwan—A lantern from the Philippines' Christmas capital, the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, is featured for the first time in the 2003 Taiwan Lantern Festival, a nine-day event that marks the end of the Chinese New Year here.

On opening night on Feb. 15, which President Chen Shui-bian graced, the lantern flashed its diverse patterns in sync with a medley of music that created the illusion of dancing lights.

The festival's newest addition—3.65 meters (12 feet) in diameter and fitted with at least 2,000 bulbs—turned out to be a major crowd-drawer. The *parol* was the only item on the Department of Tourism's Visit Philippines 2003 float.

Along Jingkou Boulevard where 19 other floats adorned the creative lantern area, many stood attentive, watching the Pampanga lantern explode its colors and designs.

Couples and families were seen having their photographs taken with the lantern in the background.

The more enthusiastic lingered and watched from the rear, wanting to find out how the lantern performed the way it did.

Roland Quaimbao, Joseph San Juan and Eduardo Dizon, the young craftsmen who continue to improve the centuries-old tradition of lantern making rooted in Catholic rites, gladly shared the secret.

Two rotors and 210 hairpins, they told the eager spectators, produced the magical display of lights and images of fans, flowers and stars of this festival's favorite.

Because the three craftsmen could not speak Chinese and their guests hardly spoke English, they remedied the language gap by allowing their hosts to see them at work.

Quaimbao and Dizon each held the wheels of the rotors, actually steel barrels linked to the electric source. The turning of the wheels left and right or in half or full circle caused the hairpins to come intact with electricity.

Quiambao, the lantern designer, also showed that the precise tempo of the blinking was achieved if the rotor operator danced with the music. In this case, he and Dizon, as well as the lantern, danced to the tunes of Filipino folk music and the hit "Asereje (The Ketchup Song)."

Their guests gave them a thumbs-up sign, a vigorous handshake or a salute to show their astonishment.

Filipino workers here said the *parol* gave them a feel of home. The Pampanga lantern was among the items displayed in 20 floats from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Macau and the Philippines.

"I feel like I'm back home. It brings memory of wonderful Christmases in the Philippines," said Lulu Hizon. She has yet to return to the Philippines since she started working here five years ago.

Like Hizon, many Filipino workers brought food to Quiambao, San Juan and Dizon as they assembled the lantern two days before the festival's opening.

Philippine Airlines and FedEx brought the lantern and the Philippine team to the festival, said Gerosel Agravante-Siquian, DOT representative in Taiwan.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Taichung government organized the event.

The Pampanga lantern stood next to the float of Vitalon Foods Co., which produced the Guinness-recognized largest aluminum drink can in the world.

Kennon Road a marvelous 'highway scam'

BAGUIO CITY—When the American colonial government decided to build the 34-km Kennon Road 100 years ago, it allocated $75,000 for the engineering marvel that would open the cool mountain resort to the world.

But when the scenic road was completed three years later in 1905, the cost of construction ballooned to close to $2 million.

"Had that thing happened at this time, the builders of Kennon Road would have to be called for a congressional investigation for committing a 'highway scam'," Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon told diplomats and Japanese visitors who attended the commemoration program on the Kennon Road centennial here.

But the builders of the road, led by American Maj. Lyman W.V. Kennon, and a crew of 3,000 laborers from 46 countries bucked opposition from colonial leaders and natives, diseases and accidents to build in record time what was described as the "best mountain road in the world."

Despite its staggering cost and the loss of hundreds of men through diseases and accidents, the Benguet Road, later renamed the Kennon Road in honor of its builder, "opened the world to Baguio and Baguio to the world," said Gordon.

"It was a formidable challenge, a difficult and almost impossible task to build the Kennon Road," he said.

Without heavy construction equipment that are available today, the Kennon Road workers had to use their bare hands to carve a mountain road.

Gordon said the road was built through sheer determination and hardship.

"The lesson of the Kennon Road showed men can overcome mental barriers towards doing what is best for the uplift of mankind," he said.

Around 200 descendants of Japanese workers who participated in the construction of the Kennon Road made a sentimental journey to this city this week to remember their exploits. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

₱100-M loan OKd for Legazpi market

LEGAZPI CITY—Construction of a new P100-million two-story public market in the city's business center is expected to start in March.

This developed after the Land Bank of the Philippines assured Mayor Noel Rosal of the release of the P100-million loan to finance the project.

"There is no turning back and we are confident to push the project despite some constraints due to some interventions," Rosal said, referring to the opposition of his political rivals in the city council.

According to him, his constituents have been longing for a new public market, especially the hundreds of vendors who have been dislocated after the old market was burned in a fire in 1993.

Rosal said he was just waiting for a court decision to grant his motion to dismiss the taxpayers' lawsuit filed by six city council members, led by Councilor Luis Adornado, in July 2002.

The six councilors claimed that the city government failed to secure the necessary documents of ownership of the land on which the public market will be built. *Roly Embile and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Workers of Cojuangco-owned sugar mill in Tarlac push strike

TARLAC CITY—Taking an "all or nothing" position, workers of the Cojuangco-owned Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) struck before midnight on Friday after their night shift members left their posts to join about 500 fellow workers and sympathizers at the picket lines.

Anticipating such move after the CAT Labor Union (Catlu) cast their strike vote on Tuesday, CAT supervisors and managers had been placed on alert and readily took over operations of machines at the sugar mill to finish the work before operations were stopped on Saturday morning.

If unresolved until March 15, the strike would cut this year's milling season by at least three weeks. At full milling capacity of 300 tons of cane per hour, the strike would convert to a milling shortfall of about 151,200 tons of cane or a little over 15 percent of this year's 900,000 tons target.

A ton of cane is equal to a sack of refined sugar. A sack of refined sugar costs P1,500.

The strike is also likely to expand to the 5,000-member United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU), the labor union of agricultural workers of Hacienda Luisita, following a statement of support given by its officers to the strikers.

Rolly Alcantara, ULWU board chair, said they were now finalizing how such support would be given.

The workers accused the CAT management of violating at least six provisions of their collective bargaining agreement, such as security of tenure and free hospitalization.

"We are doing this because the management has been disregarding our demands," said Ricardo Ramos, Catlu president.

Ramos said they would continue the strike "for as long as it takes" until management complied with the CBA provisions.

Romy Ecraela, CAT corporate affairs manager, said they had not violated any provision of the CBA. He said they were hoping that the issues being raised by the workers would be resolved at the conciliation committee.

Ecraela also said the "quick and efficient transition" between the striking workers and the managers at the mill had substantially reduced Friday night's losses.

He said CAT lawyers were now studying the situation as the strike came off within the prescribed seven-day cooling off period. Jo Clemente, Russell Arador and Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Archbishop hails ordination of 2 Cebuano priests as bishops

By Lino K. Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Lightning struck twice" in Cebu last week.

This was how Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal happily described the ordination of two Cebuano priests to bishops.

Vidal said the ordination of Bishops Isabelo "Boy" Abarquez and Patrick Buzon would afford the Cebu Archdiocese models "in holiness and shepherding."

Vidal ordained Abarquez on Feb. 18 at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral. Abarquez is to be installed new auxiliary bishop of Cebu.

Buzon was ordained, also by Vidal, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church in Punta Princesa, this city, last Thursday. He will be assigned to the Diocese of Kabankalan in Negros Occidental, replacing Bishop Vicente Navarra whom the Pope appointed new bishop of Bacolod City.

The new bishops admitted to having sleepless nights and anxiety after receiving the news from the Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco on Dec. 18 last year that Pope John Paul II had appointed them bishops. They said they accepted because they were encouraged by the Papal Nuncio not to be afraid.

Abarquez, fondly called "Bishop Boy," will be assigned as parish priest of the Cebu Cathedral.

"Love makes the difference between the boy and the man. Bring out the man in us, Bishop Boy. Bring out the best in us, turn the boy into a man!" Vidal said in his homily during the ordination rite.

Born on July 8, 1956, to Anacleto Abarquez and Paulino Caiban, Bishop Boy is the third to be ordained priest in their town but the first to become bishop.

He is also the only priest ordained thrice by Vidal: As deacon on Nov. 6, 1986, as priest on June 23, 1987, and as bishop on Tuesday.

Abarquez grew up in a farm in Barangay Tubod-Bitoon, Dumanjug town in southern Cebu.

Buzon, who grew up in San Nicolas, Cebu City, was rector of the Don Bosco Missionary Seminary in Lawaan, Talisay City, from 1982 to 1988 and of the Don Bosco Technical High School in Punta Princesa.

Business Opportunity with San Miguel

Proponents should be:

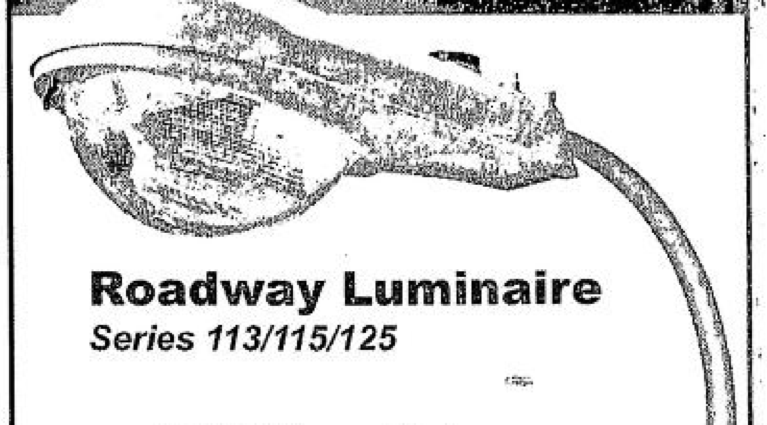
- Owners of commercial space (100-300 sq.m.) at high-traffic, city areas (near schools, churches, markets, bus/jeepney terminals, villages, government offices, town plazas, parks, malls, factories, restaurants, etc.) anywhere in the Philippines
- Willing to manage the business directly, and actively participate as a partner in the San Miguel Group's program to further widen availability of its products to consumers

San Miguel will construct all structures for each retail outlet and provide an attractive supply contract scheme for its product items.

Send proposals, along with
(a) photocopy of the land title
(b) vicinity map of the proposed business site and
(c) applicant's address and contact numbers, to:
Fax No. 637-3786 and/or
P.O. Box 4708, Makati.
Qualified applicants shall be advised either by phone or by mail.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

AEL American Electric Lighting
Made in USA



Roadway Luminaire
Series 113/115/125

IDEAL FOR:
- City & Municipal Roadways
- Expressways
- Skyways
- Security Lighting
- Parks
- Coastal Areas
- Subdivisions

Call us for free technical advice and estimate:
Legrand Commercial, Inc.
82-84 5th Avenue cor. J. Teodoro St., Kalookan City
Tels.: (02) 364-45-81 Fax: (02) 363-59-43
Email: mail@legrandcommercial.com

Panasonic

Rev up with the visual and stereo sound power of the new TAU Flat.

Digital World

Panasonic
TC-21PS72P

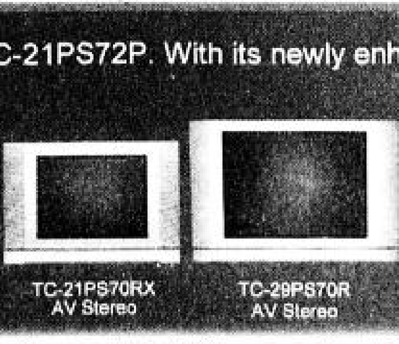
Introducing TC-21PS72P. Your breakaway in visual and sound technology. Enhanced with DVD Component Input.

I know what I like...

Now joining Panasonic's superb TAU Wing-Type Series, the TC-21PS72P. With its newly enhanced sound features, it never ceases to dazzle, it never ceases to impress.

New Wing-Type Stereo Speakers
These enhanced new-model speakers bring you the full stereo sound power even without external sources like your stereo DVD or VCD.
Thus you can enjoy your movies in tremendous stereo, and watch both cable and local channels in broadcast stereo.

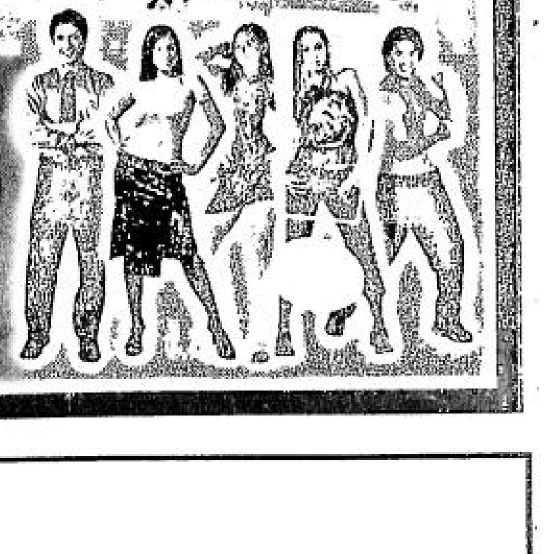
DVD Input
for digital, better picture quality.
4 Linear Input
- AV-In (2)
- AV-Out (1)
- RF Input



TC-21PS70RX
AV Stereo

TC-29PS70R
AV Stereo

I like my Panasonic!



Foldable LOUNGE CHAIR
FREE

Buy any Panasonic
Color Television or
Mini-Component
and get one (1)Foldable
Lounge Chair FREE!

Promo period:
January 11 to March 31, 2003

Panasonic Color TV
I. F-Gen Series:
- TC-14SF2 • TC-14SF3 • TC-20SF2 • TC-20SF3 • TC-21SF2 • TC-21SF3 • TC-21SF4 • TC-25SF3 • TC-29SF3
II. LM Series
- TC-14LM/LMC • TC-20LM/LMC • TC-21LMC
III. TAU Series
- TC-21FAV • TC-21F3P • TC-21PS70RX • TC-26P8OR • TC-29P8OR

Panasonic Mini, Micro Component and Home Theater Systems:
- SC-VK540
- SC-PM111
- SC-DM3
- SC-VK550
- SC-PM07
- SC-DK20
- SC-VK700
- SC-PM137
- SC-HT75
- SC-VK800
- SC-PM147
- SC-HT70
- SC-PM11
- SC-PM141
- SC-DV170

Panasonic

SEE STANDEE FOR PROMO DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0025 Series of 2003

Pinoys in HK lead rally vs wage cut

From page A1

dai, another Manila-based Christian group, expressed its support for the protest.

Pastor Gerry Ballo, head of the JIL in Hong Kong, which has 20,000 members, called the planned wage cut "unjust and discriminatory." He said 5,000 of his members joined the rally.

A Mass at the Immaculate Conception Hong Kong Cathedral was celebrated at 4 p.m. yesterday by Bishop Joseph Zen in support of Filipino domestic helpers. Zen, a Chinese, is a vocal critic of the planned wage cuts.

Hong Kong plans to cut wages by at least 5 percent and impose a levy of HK$400 (P2,784) on foreign domestic helpers as part of wide-ranging measures to raise revenues and ease its budget deficit currently estimated at HK$70 (P487.2) billion.

The territory is also experiencing its worst unemployment rate at 7.2 percent and has been suffering from deflation the past five years.

Officials here announced last week that it would cut by HK$500 (P3,480) the monthly medical benefits for the elderly and reduce by 6 percent salaries of civil servants in the next two fiscal years. They said adjusting government pay to 1997 levels would save Hong Kong at least HK$7 (P48.72) billion.

Foreign domestic helpers said the planned wage cuts and levy were unfair as they were on the lowest rung of society in the wealthy former British territory, regarded as Asia's shopping mecca. There are close to 240,000 foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong, of whom 153,000 are Filipinos.

Monthly wage cut

Under the government proposal, employers would be made to pay HK$9,600 (P66,816) in levy for the standard two-year contract of a foreign domestic helper. The amount of HK$400 (P2,784) would then be deducted from the HK$3,670 (P25,543) minimum monthly wage for domestic helpers. However, the Hong Kong tax regime exempts employees earning less than HK$9,000 (P62,640) from paying income tax.

Filipina domestic helper Rosalina Tamayo, 32, said she was very angry at the plan to cut the wages of foreign maids because it would reduce the monthly support she was sending to her family in the Philippines. She said the plan would also deprive her of the right to live a decent life.

"We are working here because we can't find decent jobs in the Philippines. Still, the Hong Kong government plans to cut our wages," said Tamayo, who has been in the territory for 13 years.

Top Philippine government officials have traveled to Hong Kong to appeal for the postponement or cancellation of the wage cuts. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople met with Tung in Hong Kong last week. Senate President Franklin Drilon was also here during the weekend to meet with Hong Kong officials. Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. is due to arrive Tuesday.

A Philippine Consulate General official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was unlikely Hong Kong would back off from the planned wage cuts. "It is very likely that they will cut the wages of the foreign maids. Their (Hong Kong officials) discussion has boiled down to how much."

"This is very revolting because Hong Kong's policy tends to single out a particular group. This is the group of workers who are the lowest paid in Hong Kong society," the Philippine official said.

El Shaddai mounts biggest peace rally

From page A1

Union Congress of the Philippines, Bigkis Pinoy, Federation of Free Workers, and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) also joined the prayer rally.

The rally came a week after millions staged protests in the United States, Britain, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia and other countries against a US invasion of Iraq.

The prayer rally expressed hope that the United States heed the worldwide anti-war rallies, and that Iraq voluntarily disarm its alleged weapons of mass destruction to avert war.

Sectoral representatives said prayers against war, but President Macapagal-Arroyo was the only one who devoted her prayer to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We are one with all the people in the world who wish for the good of Iraq and who pray that Saddam Hussein immediately submits in order to avoid the suffering of the people of Iraq in a war," the President said shortly before she left for Malaysia to attend the Non-Aligned Movement summit. *(See story on Page A1.)*

At El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde's cue, the President and the thousands of attendees released doves into the air.

Speaking to the press before the prayer rally at the Quirino Grandstand, Ecop president Donald Dee said war, whether in Mindanao or in Iraq, would adversely affect the local economy.

Dee urged Ms Macapagal to consider a dialogue with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to stop the hostilities in Mindanao.

Other personalities who attended the rally were Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Iglesia ni Cristo leader Isias Samson Jr. and Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila and Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

Peace messages bloom

From page A1

black and white rendition of the 1960s peace icon, dashed down the sidewalk of Session Road.

Kidlat Tahimik

At least one Baguio building had fashioned its own anti-war commentary. The La Azotea building prominently displayed a giant green banner with a huge sunflower with colorful petals and the phrase, "Peace Not War."

The sign was designed by Kabunyan de Guia, according to his brother Kawayan de Guia, a Baguio artist. They are sons of acclaimed guerrilla filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, who watched the opening parade on a window sill underneath the peace banner. Tahimik's family owns the building.

Down Session Road, a woman waved a poster that said: "No war or we will die."

Policemen paid little attention to the anti-war slogans, even when tourists started asking them to pose with the puppets for photographs.

The eighth staging of the festival, also called Panagbenga, was capped by a street performance of school children banging 108 *"gangsa,"* or native gongs.

Yesterday, a floral parade, the festival's counterpart of the California Rose Parade, was held on Session Road. The parade featured 26 floral floats sponsored by local establishments and manufacturers of consumer products.

Initiated as a promotional activity of Camp John Hay, the Panagbenga was taken over by the city government starting this year.

Bellybuttons

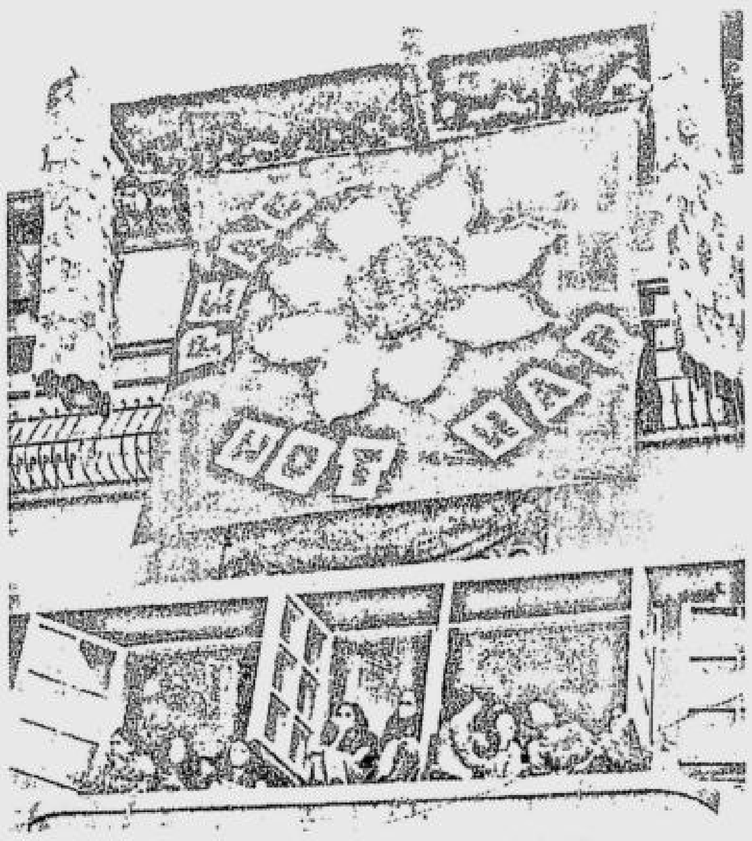
Tourists cheered and jeered at what the city government had promised to be the most fabulous flower festival yet. "I haven't seen so many bellybuttons in my life," said a Bulacan tourist, who claimed to have seen every Panagbenga parade in the past seven years.

The tourist was referring to the more daring costumes of college and high school students this year. Many schools used body paint to draw out multicolored flowers, a requisite for joining the annual street parade.

The Pinsao Public High School chose plain colored vests and traditional g-strings, but made up for it with a rousing choreography that blended Cordillera rhythms with hip-hop.

The Saint Louis University troupe was dressed in see-through body suits, which were decked with colorful headdresses.

One of the highlights was the "Flower for Peace" parade, led by the Tropang Paltok that used three-foot high marionettes and masked dancers.



ANOTHER manifestation of the anti-war crusade is this flower-bedecked sign hanging from one of Baguio's stylish buildings. The artwork was put together by Kabunyan de Guia and the other sons of acclaimed filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik. VINCENT CABREZA

Town has nothing to show for ties to GMA

From page A1

second cousin of President Macapagal-Arroyo, thinks the opposite may even be true.

This agricultural town in eastern Pangasinan, where the President's mother, Eva Macaraeg Macapagal, hailed from, has yet to taste the growth many people expected because of its connection to Malacañang, Guico said.

Guico, who is also president of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, said he merely wanted to dispel the perception that his town was "favored by the gods" simply because of its presidential connections. He said Ms Macapagal, since assuming the presidency in 2001, had yet to fund a major project in the town.

"It was better when she was a senator, because she funded the construction of the town's sports complex," he said.

The President attended the town fiesta and the reunion of the Guico and Macaraeg clans here on Saturday. The reunion was attended by more than 3,000 relatives on the President's maternal side, many of them from the towns of Malasiqui, Sta. Barbara and Manaoag and the cities of San Carlos and Dagupan.

Promise fulfilled

But Guico said the President made good on her promise during the town's fiesta in 2001 to pave the 12-km Binalonan-Asingan Road.

In his speech during the program, Guico asked the President to release the additional P10 million needed to complete the second phase of the road project.

"I have asked her to fund the construction of the town's drainage system which is worth P30 million, but I still have to get an approval," Guico said.

He said the money for the recent renovation of the town hall came from local funds and not from Malacañang.

"It was her father [President Diosdado Macapagal] who funded the construction of the town hall in 1965, but the renovation was not funded by [Ms Macapagal]," Guico said. Ms Macapagal led the unveiling of the marker for the town hall on Saturday.

Guico said other mayors envied him because they thought Binalonan enjoyed many projects through his perceived closeness to the President.

"But the truth is, I think being a presidential relative is a disadvantage. The President may not want to give us high-impact projects because others may think that she is [favoring her relatives]," Guico said.

He also said some mayors had even asked him to act as their conduit when they want to ask something from the President.

"But sorry, I do not have her ear," he said.

Tight schedule

During the clan reunion, Ms Macapagal failed to talk at length with her relatives because of her tight schedule.

The oldest presidential relative who attended the reunion was 93-year-old Eufemia Guico Estabillo, Guico's aunt, who recently arrived from the United States.

Guico said the number of participants to the reunion could have reached 5,000 had they allowed children to attend the event.

Ms Macapagal said 75 percent of her maternal relatives belonged to the "D" socioeconomic class, which she described as the "ordinary Filipino." She said 5 percent belonged to the "ABC" classes, while the rest was "E" or among the poorest Filipinos.

The President said she was very happy to be with her relatives. "It's nice," she told reporters. "The Macapagals already had a reunion and the Macaraegs wanted one, and I said [let's have one during the] fiesta of Binalonan, so they are all here."

Ople allays fear of GMA isolation at NAM summit

From page A1

The President's message is consistent with the NAM declaration," he added.

Echoing the hawkish stance of US President George W. Bush, Ms Macapagal earlier this month urged the United Nations to act with "force and dispatch" should Iraq refuse to cooperate fully with UN arms inspectors.

Preparations for Monday's opening of the NAM summit have been dominated by the US confrontations with Iraq and North Korea—two member countries alleged to have weapons of mass destruction.

Over the weekend, the grouping of 114 mostly developing nations—which includes many US allies as well as its most bitter foes—drafted a compromise statement on Iraq that urged Baghdad to "actively comply" with UN resolutions but made clear the movement's strong revulsion toward any US-led war.

Non-aligned nations represent 55 percent of the world's population and hold nearly two-thirds of the UN General Assembly seats. Six are members of the 15-seat Security Council, where the United States and Britain need a nine-vote majority to pass a resolution authorizing an attack on Iraq.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad denounced US-led preparations for an assault on Iraq, saying an attack would be seen throughout the Islamic world as "a war against Muslims," especially since Washington has been significantly less hawkish in handling North Korea's nuclear program.

"The attack against Iraq will simply anger more Muslims who see this as anti-Muslim rather than anti-terror," the Malaysian leader told a forum of business leaders coinciding with the summit.

"The fact that North Korea's open admission that it has weapons of mass destruction has met only with mild admonishment by the West seems to prove that indeed it is a war against Muslims and not against the fear of possession of weapons of mass destruction by the so-called rogue countries," Mahathir said.

Mahathir also accused Israel of seizing upon fears of terrorism following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as an excuse "to launch terror attacks against the Palestinians."

Delegates on Sunday also endorsed a separate statement condemning Israel for "systematic human rights violations and reported war crimes" in Palestinian areas. Since the 1967 Middle East War, non-aligned nations have regularly condemned Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.

Palestinian delegates had said the draft declaration would include a move to impose sanctions on Israel, but the text appeared to fall short of that, calling for "concrete measures" against products manufactured in Israeli settlements within Palestinian-claimed areas. *With a report from AP*

Edsa I soldiers viewed Cory as pro-communist

From page A1

ment resources at the disposal of Marcos, we took the big risk of losing our careers and lives.

Just in case I got killed or imprisoned, I left my wife and three children in the care of two friends, Keith Mackie and Korean War veteran Feliciano Miravite of the Philippine Military Academy's Class 1951. My family learned about it only after the revolution.

Steering committee

The need to organize led to the election of officers to the 11-member ad hoc steering committee, Eugene Ocampo (PMA Class 1958) was the chair. Rex Robles (1965) was the spokesperson.

Other members of the committee were Hector Tarrazona (1968), Victor Batac (1971), Gregorio Honasan (1971), Alejandro Flores (1972), Charlemagne Alejandrino (1975), Napoleon de los Santos (1975), Rene Abella (1979), Gregorio Catapang (1981), and Rafael Tadeo (1981).

The names of other RAM members not mentioned are now part of Philippine history.

There was no talk of coup or revolution but, individually and collectively, we concluded that there would be no meaningful reforms for as long as Marcos was in power. Since the civilians could not do it alone, the support of RAM officers was needed.

On July 10, 1985, the RAM officers met at the Officers' Club of Camp Aguinaldo with different sectors of society represented by Jaime Ongpin, Vicente Paterno, Vicente Jayme, Jose Concepcion Jr., Sergio Sanchez Jr., Rizalino Navarro, Jose Romero Jr., Emanuel Soriano, Ramon del Rosario Jr. Carlos Villa-Abrille, Ricardo Romulo and Jose Cuisia Jr.

A similar meeting was held at the Flag Officers' Building in Camp Aguinaldo on Aug. 1, 1985. In attendance were several RAM officers and Jaime Ongpin, Cesar Buenaventura, Felix Bautista, Eugenia Apostol, Bienvenido Tan Jr., Bernardo Villegas, K. Licuanan, R. Arnaiz, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Niñez Cacho Olivares, Santiago Dumlao, Rene Saguisag, J. Rocha, and N. Tolentino.

In an obscure restaurant in Makati, we also met with Fulgencio Factoran Jr. and Fely Aquino. Other meetings were held between RAM officers and several school teachers, and between RAM officers and religious leaders. There were other meetings where I was not present.

On many occasions, our liaison was retired Navy Capt. Antonio Tansingco, a member of PMA Class 1955, who was a business associate of Jaime Ongpin.

The civilians were emboldened when we came out in the open to work for reforms. One project was called "Kamalayan 1986," a campaign for clean, fair and honest elections during the snap presidential election of February 1986. Open meetings in military camps were included in the campaign.

In addition, on Jan. 11-13, 1986, 1st Lt. Gregorio Catapang and I went to the PMA in Baguio City and requested cadets to sign and send to their relatives and friends 8,000 pre-printed letters we had prepared.

God-fearing

On Jan. 7, 1986, a month before the snap elections that pitted Corazon Aquino against Marcos, Jose Rufino arranged a press conference, which was attended by a group of RAM officers, at the Jade Vine Restaurant. "Is Cory Aquino a communist?" we were asked a direct question. In effect, all of us replied no. Knowing the godless communists, I answered, "If she is God-fearing I don't think she is."

The following morning, the headline of the Philippine Daily Inquirer was "Cory no Commie." My answer was translated into several dialects and made part of the campaign material of Mrs. Aquino and her running mate, Salvador Laurel.

The communist label so greatly worried Mrs. Aquino that she wrote a letter to the bishops, clergy and religious that was published in Veritas on Jan. 19, 1986 The first two paragraphs of the letter read:

My dear friends,

In the current political campaign, I am being accused by the government of being a communist. I am also being accused of planning to give a role to communists in my government if elected President.

You know me. I trust that you believe me when I say that I am not a communist, and never will be, and that I will not give the communists a role in my government.

Shortly after the successful Edsa I Revolution, President Aquino released from detention the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Jose Maria Sison, and his comrades.

"Look, what you have done; you installed a monster!" a senior military officer said as he chided me. He blamed us for the ascension of Mrs. Aquino to the presidency and for the release of Sison and his comrades. Although many believed that she was not a communist, the prevailing perception in the AFP then was that she was sympathetic to the communists.

Coup attempts

Mrs. Aquino did not take into consideration the feelings of military officers and men who had helped install her to the top leadership of the country. Had she consulted with them and made them part of her decision-making process, there would have been no release of the communists from detention, and there would have been no coup attempts in 1987 and 1989. This is not to say that then Colonel Honasan, now a senator, was justified in staging coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

By releasing the communists, the President delivered an implied message that she valued the communists more than her very own soldiers. Perhaps she forgot that some soldiers died fighting the communist insurgents.

I did not join the RAM and risked my life and the lives of my wife and children fighting the Marcos dictatorship so that Sison and his comrades would be freed from detention.

Instead of completely defeating the enemy, Mrs. Aquino's decision to release the communists intensified the communist insurgency and caused the loss of hundreds of lives and billions of pesos over the past 17 years. Unless and until the communists are totally vanquished, more Filipino lives and resources will be lost.

Deployment of GIs 'calculated gambit' to crush Abu Sayyaf

THE US plan to send combat troops to Jolo, Sulu could lead to American casualties, but it is a calculated gambit to crush Abu Sayyaf bandits while sending a warning to other militants in Southeast Asia, analysts said yesterday.

It could also boost President Macapagal-Arroyo's stock as she grapples with massive economic problems because, for many Filipinos, whoever is backed by the United States also has their backing, an analyst added.

"Both Gloria and President Bush appreciate the political symbolism of a move in Jolo," political analyst Alex Magno told Reuters on Sunday.

"For Bush, the symbolism stretches across the border to other countries in Southeast Asia. That's what the message is, that the US is prepared to engage militarily if you become troublesome."

"You have what is called the 'royal lie,'" said Magno, who is identified with Ms Macapagal. "The royal lie here is that the Jolo operation is a training exercise. That is defensible in court."

Former national security adviser Jose Almonte says there are ways of skirting around the constitutional ban.

"You can invoke terrorism as a global enemy. In that context, you can invoke the US doctrine of preemptive strike," he said.

"But Gloria knows her Constitution. She knows what is the sanction. I doubt if she will violate the constitution."

US adventure

Analysts say an adventure in Jolo could mean loss of American lives but that Washington may be ready to pay the price.

Nationalists, led by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, have warned US combat operations in Jolo would violate Philippine sovereignty, and threatened to challenge the President in court.

Magno believes the political risks for Ms Macapagal will be low in light of last year's survey which shows 85 percent of Filipinos support US help in wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

"Public opinion is stubbornly pragmatic. If you kill an Abu Sayyaf, public opinion will say, to heck with legalese," he said. "This is a politically winnable exercise (for Ms Macapagal)."

"First, it will show her as a tough president. Second, public opinion is supporting her, and third, it will show she is a child of Uncle Sam . . . If you go by the opinion polls, if you are supported by Uncle Sam, you are supported by the people."

Reuters

Solon welcomes US troops

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. Robert Jaworski yesterday said he welcomed the help of US troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

If the Philippines was not listed as a terrorist haven, Jaworksi said, the country would not have so many economic problems, he said.

"There is a string of so many economic woes that we are encountering because of the terrorist tag so we have to get rid of it, and if there are groups that can help us why not," he said.

Jaworski said the arrival of American troops should be welcomed for as long as the fight is specifically against the Abu Sayyaf, which has "given us so much headaches and international repercussions."

"The bottom line is that are we really gaining ground against the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Death awaits GIs, Moro leaders warn

From page A1

who said they were not consulted by Malacañang, came after the White House confirmed reports that US troops would fight the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

But Malacañang insisted that US troops would "support" Filipino soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf through training and tactical advice. Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, in separate radio interviews, said the White House actually affirmed Malacañang's position that US troops will not take part in combat.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government would have the final say on whether American troops would be allowed to operate in the country. "The exercise will be conducted on Philippine soil so the Philippines will be the one to decide what will happen and the President will decide on what will happen and what will be allowed to happen," Reyes told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Opposition from both chambers of Congress mounted, with many lawmakers dismissing the explanation that the AFP would lead the operations. "It is Washington which will call the shots and the Armed Forces of the Philippines will play the subordinate role," Sen. Joker Arroyo said. "It [AFP] will not lead it, all in violation of our Constitution."

Reyes left for the United States to meet his counterpart Donald Rumsfeld to discuss the controversial Sulu plan. He will first stop in Hawaii to meet Admiral Thomas Fargo, chief of the US Pacific Command.

The controversy over the deployment of US combat troops can only deepen after Philippine and US forces officially opened a 10-month counterterrorism program yesterday in this city.

Southern command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya declared the "Bayanihan Exercises" open, in which US troops will train 12 "light infantry battalions" of about 6,000 soldiers in intelligence-gathering and counterterrorism against the Abu Sayyaf.

Soldiers armed with assault rifles and Army snipers atop a three-story house stood guard outside the camp. "This is part of the $25-million security assistance but it's a small cost to pay to combat terrorism," US Air Force Special Forces Col. Douglas Lengendfelder told 100 Filipino and a dozen US soldiers at the opening ceremony.

Tausug guns

In Davao City on Saturday, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin warned that armed Tausug families were the norm in Sulu.

"Maybe, each house in Sulu possesses at least one gun," Salapuddin said.

He said the people of Sulu had a deep-seated historical animosity against the Americans. "It is a scar left by the Americans that cannot be healed. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of history," he said.

He joined other Moro political leaders in chiding Malacañang for approving the Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu without consulting the ARMM leaders.

Amin, who was interviewed in Davao City, said he supported the joint training but he wanted it held in Luzon or Visayas—"not in my hometown for God's sake!"

Hussin said he was afraid they were now running out of time. "I am not happy, we are not being consulted. Maybe we still exercise more patience and wait for the national government to tell us about it," the ARMM governor said.

AFP officers warned that the fight in Jolo, Sulu would be much harder than last year's operation in Basilan. "If the Americans go to Jolo, they should prepare for the worst," said an intelligence officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The officer, who worked with the Americans last year, said Jolo offers better defensive opportunities for the guerrillas than Basilan because the jungle was not as thick, allowing them to spot approaching troops at a distance.

Supply will be more troublesome because there isn't a big base to support the US troops as there was on Basilan.

US soldiers will also come into contact with potentially hostile people more often because Jolo's airport and the two military camps suitable for US forces sit in crowded neighborhoods on the predominantly Muslim island. Islanders have bitter memories of the American soldiers led by Gen. John Pershing, who crushed a Muslim uprising on Jolo a century ago.

"The wounds over the massacre of our forefathers by the American colonialists have not been healed," said Temojin Tulawie, leader of a new group opposing the decision by President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring in US troops.

Senators

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said the Philippines should be prepared to place its own troops under US command if it allowed the Americans to engage in combat with Abu Sayyaf bandits and local sympathizers.

"US regulations do not allow any of their American units to be placed under the command of any foreign commander whenever there are joint combat operations," Biazon said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Martin Marfil, Norman Bordadora, Gerald G. Lacuarta, Christine O. Avendano; AP, Reuters, AFP*

Para sa mas
Malusog na Bukas.
NEW
MULTIVITAMINS + LYSINE
MEDGIVIT
Syrup
Tutti-Frutti flavor
MULTIVITAMINS + LYSINE

Iba na ngayon ang mga bata, kailangan nila ng mas maraming bitamina para sa mabilis na paglaki at malusog na katawan.

Maging handa sa kinabukasan ng inyong anak.
Medgivit Syrup, sapat na bitamina na may LYSINE
para sa malusog na bukas.

Distributed by:
MG PRIMEPharmaceutical, Inc.
72 Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
Tel. No. 929-8958 to 59 * Fax No. 454-6853

Available at mercury drug
and other leading outlets nationwide.

Available in 60 & 120 mL.

Public opinion against combat . . .

From page A1

which was limited to six months.

The Washington Post pointed out the strategic aspect of the new deployment: "It opens another battlefront as US forces already are stretched in preparing for a possible war in Iraq, securing Afghanistan and pursuing al-Qaida around the world."

The New York Times plays a variation on the same theme; it reports that the operation to "disrupt and destroy" the Abu Sayyaf "also marks a sharp escalation in the war against terror as the United States builds up for a possible war with Iraq and to hunt al-Qaida in Afghanistan." The Times further reports that dispatching American commandos to the Sulu jungles "comes as a convenient moment for Pentagon officials, who have sought to show that the American military can fight in a war with Iraq and still carry out a global hunt for terrorists."

Both newspapers quoted unnamed Pentagon officials as sources, illustrating that the combat aspects of the US deployment reflected the Bush administration's point of view—not the Philippines'—of how US troops are going to be engaged in Sulu.

The US appears to be ramming this perspective against the Philippine view that the Balikatan 03-1 will have to follow the lines of Balikatan 02-1, as merely a training exercise.

Collision course

This divergence puts the Philippines and the US on a collision course, even as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes flies to Washington to discuss "details" of the operations with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Pentagon officials say the combat deployment is a "done deal," while Reyes and Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye insist that no agreement has yet been signed.

Reyes, on the eve of his departure for Washington, told me that the President had given him the mandate to work out an arrangement that does not contravene the Constitution, which bans combat engagement of foreign troops in the Philippines, and the Visiting Forces Agreement, which provides the matrix for the terms of reference (TOR) of the Balikatan 02-1.

Reyes admitted that while the new exercises will "essentially be the same" as the Balikatan 02-1, "there might be changes" requiring a "new set of TOR." He said the changes would be shaped by the area of operations, the new venue (Sulu), the details of the deployment (concerning troops and logistics support facilities) and the "how-to-do-it mechanics."

Whether the final agreement will follow the Basilan model, in which US troops did not join Filipino soldiers on the front lines and stayed behind in headquarters, is problematic in the face of the US position favoring combat deployment.

The US press reports have sparked widespread anxiety in the Philippines that the shift of the nature of the military operations from joint training to combat offensive, albeit purportedly led by the Philippine military, would breach the Constitution and last year's TOR.

Public opinion

The country's point of view is set against public opinion poli findings that show most Filipinos opposing war in Iraq, especially if the US-led "coalition of the willing" attacks without a new UN resolution authorizing war. It thus weighs heavily on the Reyes mission as he discusses the new exercises with Rumsfeld. Already, Reyes is under attack in Congress for "treason," although it is fair to say that no agreement on the exercises has been formalized.

An agreement that allows US forces to engage in combat, outside of self-defense, will have very little support from national public opinion and could undercut the administration's backing of US President George W. Bush's war policy. It could drive a wide gulf between the government's position and Philippine public opinion. A Pentagon spokesperson had already said: "The intent is for US troops to participate" and "At this point, we're going into it, saying the mission will go on until both sides agree it is finished."

The open-ended nature of the operations is one of the flash points of the deployment and touches a raw nerve in public opinion.

Reyes said he sought feedback in Sulu before his flight to Washington. He said the people in Sulu expressed fears that the large presence of US troops there could reopen historic Muslim antagonism stirred by the "massacre" of Moro rebels in the hands of US Gen. John J. Pershing during the American "pacification campaign" in the early 20th century.

The expansion of American involvement in the campaign to "disrupt and destroy" the Abu Sayyaf, tagged by the United States as a "terrorist" organization, coincides with the estimates of US and other military analysts that the attack on Iraq will commence toward the end of March, the season in which US-led forces are expected to last enjoy strategic advantage before the searing heat in Iraq sets in.

The US and Britain are set to introduce in the UN Security Council this week a resolution forcing a showdown on the issue of a second council resolution authorizing military action. With US forces arriving in the Philippines, the country automatically becomes a second front in the war on terror centered on Iraq.

Sa Census
Serbilis Centers,
serbisyo'y
pare-pareho
saan ka man
narehistro!
Tuguegarao City
San Fernando La Union
Baguio City
East Avenue, Quezon City
San Fernando, Pampanga
Pasig, Makati, Muntinlupa, Caloocan, Pasay City
Lipa City
Legaspi City
Lucena City
Tacloban City
Cebu City
Iloilo City
Butuan City
Cagayan De Oro City
Zamboanga City
Cotabato City
Davao City
IRTH CERTIFICATE
Kaya sa pagkuha ng birth,
marriage o death certificate,
tara na sa pinakamalapit na
Serbilis Center!

MGA CENSUS SERBILIS CENTERS:

METRO MANILA
Caloocan City
Caloocan City Hall (Across the MTC)
Mabini St., Caloocan City
Makati City
3/F New Building Makati City Hall
J.P. Rizal St., Makati City
Muntinlupa City
G/F Annex Bldg.
Muntinlupa City Hall
Putatan, Muntinlupa City
Pasay City
Between Halls 8 & 9
Philtrade Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
Pasig City
F. Caruncho Avenue
G/F Pasig City Hall, Pasig City
Quezon City
East Avenue, Quezon City

LUZON
Baguio City
3/F Juniper Bldg.
A. Bonifacio St., Baguio City
Legaspi City
G/F Pinpin Bldg., 568 Rizal St.
Legaspi City
Lipa City
G/F Zillion Builders Bldg.
Gen. Luna St., Barangay Sabang
Lipa City, Batangas
Lucena City
Teresita Building, Quezon Avenue
Lucena City
San Fernando, La Union
4/F Virginia Bldg., Quezon Avenue
San Fernando, La Union
San Fernando, Pampanga
2/F A&A Bldg.
Km 73 MacArthur Highway
Maimpis, SF, Pampanga
Tuguegarao City
G/F Gonzaga St. Extension
Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City

VISAYAS
Cebu City
3/F Capuras Bldg., Sanciangco St.
Cebu City
Iloilo City
2/F Villanueva Bldg.
J.M. Basa corner Rizal Sts.
Iloilo City
Tacloban City
2/F Uy Ting Koc Bldg.
Senator Enage St.
Tacloban City

MINDANAO
Butuan City
G/F Acerado Bldg.
Achoa Avenue, Butuan City
Cagayan de Oro City
G/F Lantoria Bldg.
#77 Julio Pacana St.
Cagayan de Oro City
Cotabato City
G/F Carumba Bldg.
Jupiter St., Cotabato City
Davao City
2/F Mintrade Bldg.
F. Bangoy cor. Monteverde Sts.
Davao City
Zamboanga City
2/F Cortez Bldg., Dr. Evangelista St.
Barangay Sta. Catalina
Zamboanga City

PLUNGE INTO THE HOTTEST ACTION IN THE NET

7th Nestea® Beach Volley University Championships

ELIMINATION ROUND
(Power Plant Mall at Rockwell)

Luzon and Metro Manila Division
Feb. 28 - Mar. 3

Visayas Division
Mar. 13 - 14

Mindanao Division
Mar. 15

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
(Power Plant Mall at Rockwell)
Mar. 16

FINAL ROUND
(Boracay)
Apr. 5-6

For updates:
NESTEA 306
Key in NESTEA Send to 306

SPEEDO
Le SOLEIL de BORACAY
SMART Simply Amazing!
Great Eastern Hotel
CÉBÉ
Astring-O-sol CONCENTRATED
MIKASA
POWER PLANT MALL

TYSON and referee Bill Clancy look at the fallen Etienne. GETTY IMAGES

Tyson kayoes Etienne

MEMPHIS, Tennessee–There is still some badness left in Iron Mike after all.

In desperate need of a devastating win, Mike Tyson got just that Saturday night, flattening Clifford Etienne just 49 seconds into the fight with a savage right hand reminiscent of Tyson in his prime.

Etienne was knocked flat on his back in the middle of the ring and he lay there as referee Bill Clancy counted him out and a fight that seemed destined never to happen came to a sudden end.

Tyson then leaned over and helped Etienne to his feet as the crowd of 15,171 at the Pyramid arena erupted in glee at the sudden ending to a fight that seemed like it would never happen.

Tyson got $5 million, money he needs not only to pay bills but to pay his ex-wife, Monica, a $6.5 million divorce settlement.

Tyson, who had never lost a non-title fight, won for the 50th time in a career that began 18 years ago. It was the 43rd knockout for Tyson, who has lost four fights and has two no contests.

Etienne, who dropped to 24-2-1, had an altercation with a woman as he left the ring, and appeared agitated. *AP*

Guaranteed Satisfaction

Natural Korgivit-E A UNISEX VITAMIN

Its potency can be truly penetrating...

Per capsules contains:
VITAMIN E (tocopheryl acid succinate) 150 mg
KOREAN GINSENG 100 mg
BEE POLLEN 150 mg
LECITHIN 50 mg
CALCIUM PANTOTHENATE 30 mg

Manufactured and distributed by:
DIAMOND LABORATORIES, INC.
#8 Faria Road, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
e-mail diamond@i-manila.com.ph
For inquiries, call 932-7555 loc. 115
Korgivit-E
CAPSULE

Quick Cold & Flu Relief for the Family!

kaz USA

Specially designed for use with Liquid Vaporizer Medications

Also Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide

Exclusively Distributed by
Medical Center Trading Corp.
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1716 • 631-8355 • 637-9504
Fax: (0632) 631-7869 • E-mail: medcen@info.com.ph

MANILA 711-8374
PASIG 631-1716
LIPA (043) 757-2051
PAMPANGA (045) 961-7802
CEBU (032) 254-2367
DAVAO (082) 222-4404
ILOILO (033) 320-1413

Derby slated

CONSISTENT derbyist Louie Cua, perhaps the most visible in practically all UCAP, NCA and other big-time derbies around Metro Manila, will host the "6th UCAP/LCC Leonard 7-Cock Derby" tomorrow and on Thursday (Feb. 25 and 27) at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Entries must be submitted today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

The derby is being supported by Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo, Complexor 3000 and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug, Inc..

Ozamiz bet wins

OZAMIZ'S Shineway Ham Sausage pulled off a dramatic 95-92 overtime victory over powerhouse M. Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala of Cebu Saturday to highlight second-day action in the Luzon leg of the National Basketball League's (NBL) first regional championship at the San Juan gym.

The tourney is sponsored by adidas, Burlington, Oishi, Shineway Ham Sausage and Mei Mei Bihon.

Scores:

OZAMIZ 95–Echavez 26, Jaca 24, Sampilo 13, Cabigkis 12, Ferraren 10, Guerrero 6, Marucot 4, Libatog 0, Alvarado 0, Misola 0, Kaligbak 0.

LHUILLIER 92–Orquillas 20, Realubit 19, Falcasantos 18, Ocanada 13, Manigo 6, Balingit 6, Enriquez 5, Arano 3, Aying 2, Canoneo 0, Rodriguez 0, Cantona 0.

SUPPORT Democratic and Participatory Constitutional Reform

STOP NoEl (No Elections)
OPPOSE the Constituent Assembly (Con Ass)
ELECT Constitutional Convention (Con Con) Delegates in 2004

We are very close to achieving our dreams for constitutional reform. After two failed attempts in the past ten years, we have reached a point where almost all of our political leaders including the President, and the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate are in favor of constitutional reform. This level of consensus has been reached through our joint efforts but most importantly that of our representatives and senators.

But there is danger that this historic opportunity may once again be lost. The danger lies in the impasse between the House of Representatives and the Senate, between amending the constitution by Constituent Assembly (ConAss) and through an elected Constitutional Convention (Concon). The ConAss and Concon impasse will increase uncertainty about constitutional reform and strengthen those who, fearing change, oppose constitutional reform.

The time between now and 2004 is a point of no return for constitutional reform, a crucial period where the choices we make may seal the fate of this nation and its politics for a long time to come. There is a dangerous, rapidly rising hopelessness, cynicism and desperation among our people. We can surrender to this sense of despair, and oppose political change. Or we can build on what we have already achieved, struggle to resolve our differences and break through to giving our people the kind of political system they deserve.

We ask our friends in the House of Representatives to share the burden of constitutional reform with our people. A Constituent Assembly will only provoke accusations of self-serving constitutional amendments. Extending the terms of elected officials will confirm these accusations. NoEl (No Presidential Elections) will kill constitutional reform. Most of our senators, the President, our moral leaders Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin, most of civil society, the academe and the media are opposed to ConAss. If our representatives insist on ConAss they will destroy what they have built, the consensus for constitutional reform.

As important as constitutional reform is to our future, it cannot be stressed enough that it has to be fair, open, transparent, and participatory. Our people must be convinced of constitutional change from their own perspective. They should be able to participate through delegates elected specifically for amending the constitution. We support President Arroyo's preference for the less-divisive win-win election of constitutional convention delegates at the time of the 2004 national and local elections. Doing this will provide sufficient time for public deliberation and debate, and at the same time, save on election costs.

As individuals and groups, we carry various reform agendas. Most of us are for a federal government, and proportional representation elections in a parliamentary system. We share the same commitment in defending progressive human rights, sovereignty, and other pro-people provisions of the 1987 Constitution. More importantly we are also committed to a democratic constitutional reform process, one where the amended constitution will be the outcome of open, transparent, deliberative, and democratic negotiation.

Above all, we know that we have to seize the moment. The window of opportunity for change and true reform is elusive and grows smaller by the hour. We may never pass this way again.

We invite everyone to join us:

1) *To campaign for the election of Constitutional Convention delegates during the scheduled 2004 elections;*
2) *To stop plans for NOEL (No Elections) – for the cancellation of the 2004 elections, and the extension of terms of elected officials;*
3) *To defend the progressive, pro-people provisions of the 1987 Constitution;*
4) *To seriously consider a shift from our unitary and presidential form of government to a federal and parliamentary system with a proportional representation electoral system.*

Citizens for Con Con 2004

Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)
Associations of Foundation
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PHILDRA)
Iloilo Caucus of Development NGO Network Inc. (Iloilo Code)
Leyte Code
Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs (MinCode)
Citizens Movement for Federal Philippines (CMFP)
Consortium for Constitutional Reform (CCR)
Akbayan!
Empowering Civic Participation in Governance (ECPG)
Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER)
Institute for Politics and Governance (IPG)
Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD)
Kumare-Kumpare
National Institute for Policy Studies (NIPS)
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
Kongreso ng Mamayang Pilipino (KOMPIL)
12:30 Movement
Individuals:
Ed Rancio
Urban Poor Sectoral Council Representative, Urban Land Reform Task Force
Oscar Francisco
NAPC -Sectoral Representatives Council
Vic Fabe
Chairman, Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)
Guillermo Cua
Executive Director, NATCCO-National
Edgar Comeros,
NATCCO-Visayas
Ramon T. Jabar
National President, Federation of Free Workers (FFW)
Marietta Paragas
Chair, Cordillera Network of NGOs (CORDNET)
Ma. Estrella A. Penunia
National Coordinator, People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network (AR-Now!)
Datu MJ Alonto
Karitan Foundation
Mary Racelis
CO Multiversity
Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, OMI
Chair, Citizens Council of Peace, Kusog Mindanao
Msgr. Gerry Bitoon
Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng
Floro Roy F. Oliveros
Chair, Social Democratic Caucus
Risa Hontiveros,
Chair, PANDAYAN
Bobbit Librojo
Secretary-General, KOMPIL
Dr. Jose V. Abueva, President
Dr. Gonzalo M. Jurado, VP-Finance
Kalayaan College
Dr. Alex Brillantes
Director, Center for Regional and Local Governance
Fr. Robert Reyes
Kilusang Gomburza
Cecilia Soriano
Popular Education for People's Empowerment
Doy Abarca Cinco
Dan Songco
Rapa Lopa
Bertie Lim
Garrie David
Ursulina Presbitero
Teri Dalumpines
Louie Guia
Jun Galacio
Ma. Elena Rebagay
LMC Lorenzana
For further information, please contact:
Soc Banzuela - 434-8859
Edzel Mirafelix - 426-6001 loc. 4624
Vangie Cagungon/Aries Arugay - 921-8049

Frequently Asked Questions on Constitutional Reform

Why should we amend the 1987 Constitution?

The 1987 Constitution is far from perfect, to say the least. The existing political system has failed time and again to serve the interests of our people especially the poor and disadvantaged. Thus, we have to go by way of extra-constitutional measures such as People Power Revolution (EDSA) every time we want changes in the present system.

Is the time for change now?

All signs point to the timeliness of starting the process for constitutional reform NOW! The public perception has significantly changed. There is growing consensus for it in Congress and the Senate. Moreover, people opposed to constitutional reform during the Ramos and Estrada administrations are now in favor. Even our moral leaders Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin, civil society and the academe support constitutional reform.

Further more, constitutional reform at this time cannot be misconstrued anymore as motivated by the desire to extend the term of the incumbent President.

Who should amend our Constitution?

Constitutional reform should be democratic and pro-people. To be democratic, Constitutional reform should be undertaken by a **Constitutional Convention (ConCon)** delegates elected specifically for the purpose. To be pro-people, the process of constitution - making should involve the participation of every Filipino.

Constitutional reform is as important as our future that it has to be a shared burden with our people and one that is fair, open, transparent and participatory.

Why Constitutional Convention (ConCon) over Constitutional Assembly (ConAss)?

Our people had become cynical and weary of politicians' conduct and partisan interest. That is why the first two attempts during the Ramos and Estrada terms failed. It would only breed even more skepticism if Con-Ass is upheld as the mode of amending the Constitution since it would belie the true intentions of politicians if they insist on short cuts and less democratic mode of changing the Charter. A ConCon is not bounded by the interest of the members of Congress, it is free from suspicions that amendments will be self-serving to politicians' interests

ConCon is more democratic. Through the process of electing delegates simultaneous with the regular 2004 national and local elections, the people are given the chance to choose delegates who could represent their sectoral interest and whose sincerity and commitment have been proven.

Our people want to directly participate in constitution - making. The peoples' preference of ConCon is premised on their desire that any constitutional reform should be participatory and inclusive. The conduct of adequate and comprehensive public hearings where the people are given the opportunity to debate on the proposed amendments are necessary for the people to support charter change.

But isn't ConCon more costly than Con-Ass?

NOT REALLY. ConCon is not as costly as we are made to believe. Those against ConCon argue that it will be very costly since there will be election of delegates, plebiscite, etc. But since the election of delegates will be simultaneous with the 2004 elections, this will require no additional cost. It is simply adding another line/space in ballot to write the name of chosen delegate. The same will apply for the plebiscite in 2005. The costs then will only be those related to the actual processes of deliberating the proposed amendments.

How would the ConCon delegates work?

After electing delegates in the May 2004 elections, they can immediately begin working on the proposed amendments, which will be subjected to a plebiscite in May 2005. We hope that the delegates complete the amendments ahead of the election to allow nationwide information campaign and consultation with the people.

What will happen to the more progressive provisions of the 1987 Constitution?

We are committed to defend the hard-won guarantees of political freedoms, sovereignty and other pro-people provisions of the 1987 Constitution. In addition we are also committed to a democratic constitutional reform process - one where the amended constitution will be the outcome of open, transparent, deliberative, and democratic negotiation.

What reforms in the constitution do we propose?

Most of us are for a federal government and proportional representation in a parliamentary political system. We believe these proposals will provide the needed horizontal and vertical restructuring in our current political system.

Why should we change from a Presidential to a Parliamentary System?

In a parliamentary system there is the Prime Minister elected by the members of parliament with no fixed terms of office. This means both prime minister and legislators stay in office only up to the time that they enjoy majority legislative support. There is also a ceremonial head of state who symbolizes the solidarity of the nation.

Secondly, a parliamentary form will prevent the gridlock and buck-passing that we often experience in the presidential system and make it easier to change the head of government when necessary. It will also induce, with the help of proportional representation, a genuine party list system. That is, development of strong, program-oriented and accountable political parties.

Thirdly, parliamentary government will reduce the costly presidential elections, which is corrupting and compromising for the elected president,

Why should we adopt Federalism?

What our country needs is a decisive paradigm shift. A shift to a parliamentary system is only one-half of the needed structural and institutional change in our form of government. The shift to federalism will complete the institutional and structural change our current political system requires. Federalism is a form of political structure that unites independent states within a larger political framework, but still allowing each state to maintain its own political integrity.

Please cut ✂ —

Advt.

Canillo rules Pasig Heritage Marathon

By Dennis U. Eroa

TITLEHOLDER Crisanto Canillo did not have to worry about a family feud.

The Navyman from Iligan City showed no respect for blood ties as he beat cousin Rodel for the crown in yesterday's 42k Pasig River Heritage Marathon which ended under glorious sunshine at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

So determined was Canillo that he bettered his winning time last year with a clocking of 2:30:22, setting a lung-busting pace which doomed the challengers right from an early morning start at the Manila Cathedral

"When it comes to running, we're not cousins. The best runner wins," said Canillo, who went home richer by P50,000.

After the race, the Canillos gamely embraced each other, leaving together as friends.

Rodel timed 2:31:31 to settle for second and the P30,000 purse, while Melchor Mirasol finished third and P20,000.

Liza Yambao, a UST student, cored an upset in ruling the distaff side in 3:13:52, followed by Navy's Estela Mamac (3:18:14), and Melinda Manahan (3:29:58), respectively.

The marathon, which promotes the rehabilitation of the Pasig River, started with more than 300 runners answering the starting gun fired by well-known sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra.

"This is a worthy undertaking which should be given whole-hearted support," said Esguerra.

The Canillos towed the field which crossed 11 of 13 bridges traversing the river, which had inspired love songs and stories in the past.

As the pack passed historic landmarks and winded through five key cities, the Canillos looked stronger, while their pursuers faded one by one.

SPORTSMAN-businessman Hermie Esguerra (right) fires the starting gun in yesterday's Pasig River Heritage Marathon. ERIK ARAZAS

Rookie keys Aces victory

By June Navarro

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5: 00p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Purefoods

ALASKA, getting a lift from rookie Stephen Padilla, whipped Sta. Lucia Realty, 91-82, last night at the start of the PBA-Samsung All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Padilla, selected in the third round and landed as the 29th overall pick, delivered the crucial shots that enabled the Aces to regain their composure and turn the tables on the Realtors.

Padilla buried three straight triples in the waning moments of first half that tied the game at 39 and broke the Aces' rhythm.

"The story for us was Stephen Padilla. He came out and gave us those points that turned things around," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of the Cebuano shooter.

Padilla was fielded for only seven minutes and went 3-of-3 from the field, all of them three point shots that electrified the 11,749 patrons who trooped to the fabled Cubao arena.

John Arigo, Ali Peek, Don Allado and rookies Brandon Cablay and Mike Cortez also had their share of sparkling moments as they sustained the spark provided by Padilla until the end.

It was the second time that the Realtors were beaten by the Aces in a PBA opener. In 2001, the Aces, through the efforts of Kenneth Duremdes, tripped the Marlou Aquino-led Realtors.

Scores:

ALASKA 91—Arigo 16, Peek 14, Allado 13, Cablay 10, Camaso 10, Cortez 9, Padilla 9, Duat 6, Feihl 4, Tejada 0.

STA. LUCIA 82—Duremdes 26, Espino 21, Francisco 16, Aquino 10, Mendoza 9, Yu 0, Tierra 0, Webb 0, Victolero 0, Adriano 0, Ong 0.

Quarters:15-20, 42-39, 67-63, 91-82.

SPORTSWATCH

Payton lifts Bucks

PORTLAND—Gary Payton, playing in his 1,000th career game, sparkled in his debut with Milwaukee, scoring 22 points while dishing out nine assists as the Bucks came from 10 points down in the final stages to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 93-90 in the NBA saturday night. Tim Thomas pitched in with 19 points as the Bucks snapped a four-game losing skid, including an embarrassing 88-58 setback in Seattle on Friday night.

COMPLETE RESULTS

New Orleans 93, Detroit 91; Miami 100, Chicago 90; Houston 93, Memphis 82; San Antonio 105, Indiana 96; Utah 99, Denver 89; Milwaukee 93, Portland 90; Atlanta 89, LA Clippers 87. *Reuters*

Students cagefest on

LEGASPI CITY—Five collegiate games, featuring the favorites, usher in the 57th National Students Basketball Championships today at the Albay Astrodome here. Defending champion St. Francis of Assisi takes on Laguna Maritime Institute at 5:30 p.m. even as streaking University of the East, perennial contender University of Visayas and NCAA titlist San Sebastian College also start their campaign in the 14-team collegiate division. UE, the Bantay Bata, Battle of Champions and NCR eliminations topnotcher, battles Divine Word College of Legaspi following the 10 p.m. opener between San Sebastian College and Angeles University Foundation. *Roy Luarca*

Justine beats Monica

DUBAI—Top-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium beat an equally brilliant Monica Seles of the United States 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5 Saturday to win the $585,000 Dubai Open. Seles, leading 5-4 in the second set, saw a match point slip away as Henin-Hardenne took the game to three deuces before leveling. Martina Navratilova added another title to her career, winning the doubles with Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia. They beat Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-3, 7-6 (7). *AP*

Howell extends lead

PACIFIC PALISADES, California—Charles Howell III fired a steady three-under-par 68 to increase his lead after the third round of the $4.5 million Nissan Open on Saturday. Howell is on 11-under 202, three strokes ahead of Nick Price after beginning the day only one stroke in front of the Zimbabwean. With a four-under 67 at Riviera Country Club Korea's K.J.Choi took solo possession of third place, four shots behind the lead. Rich Beem, last year's PGA champion, and Len Mattiace, the 2002 Nissan winner, are tied for fourth at six-under 207. World number one Tiger Woods ballooned to a two-over 73 and is on even-par 213 and tied for 28th. *Reuters*

NGAYON, MAY SPLIT PEAS NA ANG ENERTONE
THUNDERBIRD
ENERTONE
READY-MIXED MAINTENANCE FEEDS
for 5 months and up
SPLIT PEAS

Siguraduhing maayos ang pangangatawan ng inyong mga panabong sa ENERTONE Ready-Mixed Maintenance Feeds!

Ang ENERTONE Ready-Mixed Maintenance Feeds ay :

- May tamang timpla ng concentrate grains at high quality pellets, at ngayon with split peas pa.
- Madaling tunawin.
- Ubos lahat ang pakain.

THUNDERBIRD ENERTONE WITH PHYTIC ACID NEUTRALIZER

THE WINNING FORMULA

The 1st Ready-Mixed Maintenance Feeds

Di lang basta gawa... Gawa Agad!
Simpleng Kausap!

Direct Link
CAR INSURANCE

No forms to fill up! No stencils or taking of photos!

Just have all your documents ready.
Isang tawag lang...our Gawa Agad Centers will take of the rest.

Ganyan ang Simpleng Kausap. Gawa Agad!

Enjoy HULUGAN! Up to 6 months to pay!

Call Now!
direct link INSURANCE
A UCPB GROUP COMPANY
MAKATI OFFICE 88-725-88
CEBU OFFICE 234-0808
E-mail: dirlink@mozcom.com or call
Toll-Free 1800-1888-LINK (5465)
anywhere in the Philippines

SUERTRES 9 1 5
(In exact order)

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
21 25 30 31 36 46

Luisita wins in record style

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DAVAO CITY—Luisita retained its title yesterday in the 17th PAL Seniors Interclub in record-breaking fashion, spoiling a great stab at glory by Manila Southwoods.

Southwoods, which exceeded expectations when it grabbed the first-round lead despite being bracketed at the lower Founders Division, faltered at Lanang.

It was a big letdown for the bets from Carmona, Cavite, who scored a huge 239 points at Palos Verdes to lead Luisita by 6 going into yesterday's final round.

But at Lanang, considered the easier course than Palos Verdes until rains the night before made the layout a little tougher, Southwoods made only 220.

Southwoods' 459 total was 7 points short of Luisita's winning 466 on back-to-back 233s at both Palos Verdes and Lanang.

"We surely missed Carlo Gamban, but we also understood when he begged off," said Rudy Samson, the captain of Luisita. "He has to attend to some pressing problems as mayor of Silay City that's why he is not here. Southwoods gave us a real scare but I'm glad my team was able to recover lost ground."

Also missing in the Luisita lineup was many-time mainstay Lucio Yan, the former national seniors champion who was also tied up with his business concerns in Manila.

Luisita played with only seven players out of a maximum eight in the 8-to-play, 5-to-count format that gives 1 point to a double bogey in the modified Stableford scoring system.

But still, despite a decimated lineup, Luisita became the first team to win the crown four in a row twice–the first time was from 1991 to 1994.

In winning, the par busters from Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac–Iggy Clavecilla, King Sumulong, Richie Garcia, Alex Montelibano, Alfonso Marcelo, Cesar Munoz and Alan Gaston–scored their 11th title since the PAL Seniors began in 1986.

"Modesty aside, we will gun for a `five-peat' next year," said Samson.

Cagayan de Oro will be next year's venue.

Southwoods lost the overall crown that would have given it a historical masterpiece as no team from the lower division has ever won the overall title. It consoled itself by running away with the Founders Division title.

Crystal Springs won the Sportswriters Division in the tournament sponsored by, among others, Air Bus, CNN International, ANS-CBN International, Fortune Tobacco, GE, Joey 92.3, MTV Philippines, PLDT, Premier wines and Spirits, Radio Mindanao Network, Royal Caribbean International, The Marco Polo, UMBN/Mindanao Times, 96.3 Wrock, Apo View Hotel, Boeing, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Tanduay, TaylorMade, Nestle, Discovery Channel and Pilipinas Shell.

The PAL Men's Regular will be held from Feb. 26 to March 1 at Apo and Palos Verdes.

BENNY Gopez of Riviera.

ROGER MARGALLO

ALEX Prieto of Manila Golf Club.

ROGER MARGALLO

SPORTSTV

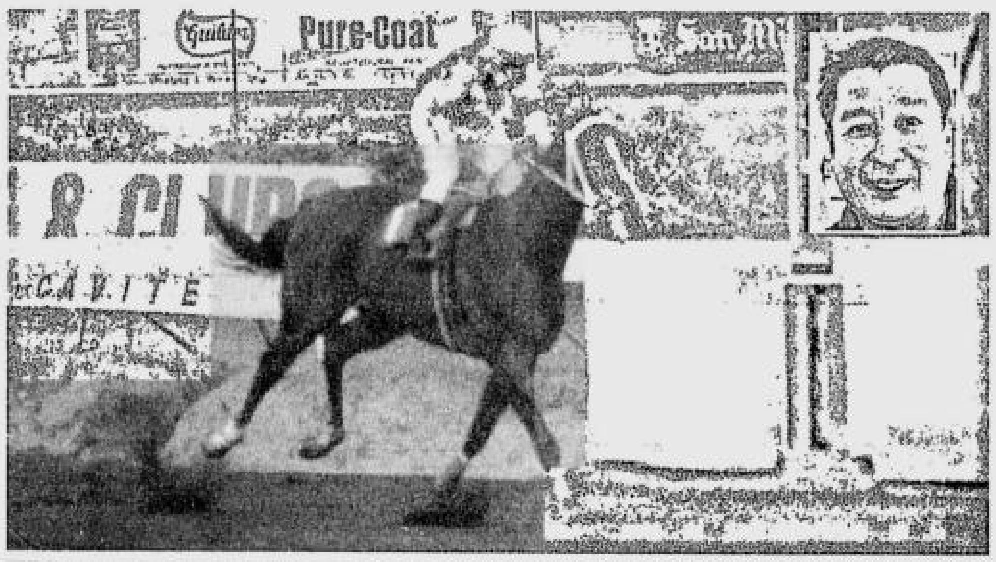
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Lakers vs Celtics (1984 Finals), 8:30 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.), Lakers vs Sonics, 10:30 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Solar Sports, Mavericks vs Wizards, 7 p.m., IBC 13

POOL: Rack 'Em Up 2, 4 p.m., Star Sports

GOLF: Nissan Open, 2 p.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Star Sports

TENNIS: Kroger St. Jude, 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports



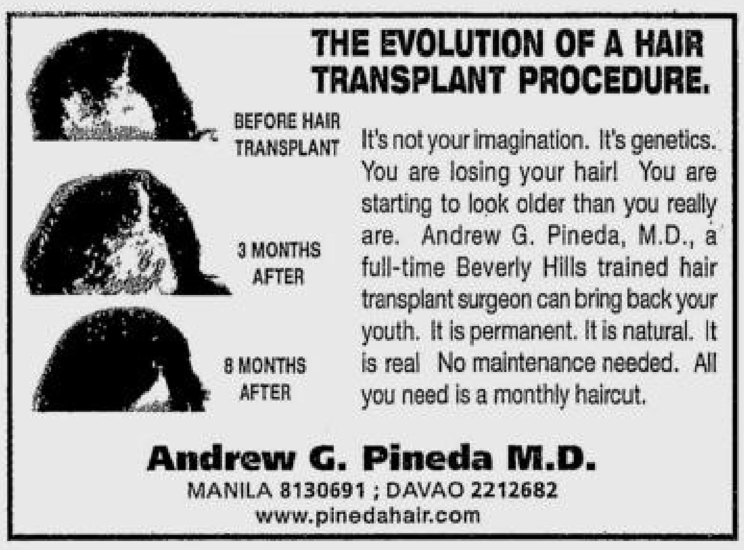
TRIPLE CROWN TOP PICK

Security Master, handled by Val Dilema, storms to the finish line well ahead of the rest in the first leg of the Road to Triple Crown series yesterday at Santa Ana. Security Master, co-owned by Malate businessman Myther Buñag (inset), bagged P450,000. The 3-year-old bay colt by Khozaam out of Milrose clocked a sizzling 1:41 flat (24.5-25-24.27.5) over the 1,600-meter race.

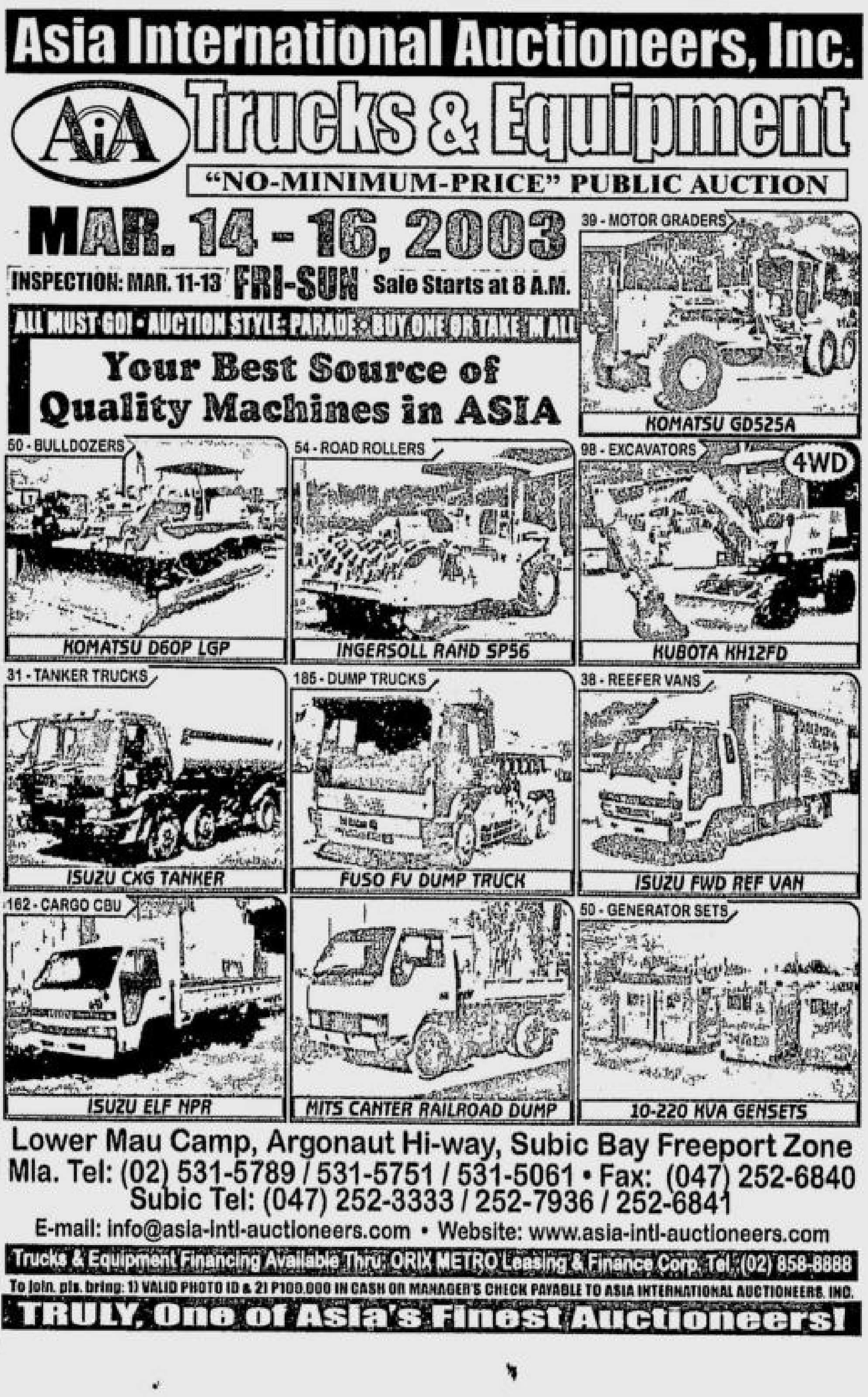
ROGER CARPIO

Computer Problem? We come to YOU!
PCHelp HOME & OFFICE COMPUTER SERVICE
Honest and Experienced Technicians
✓ DIAGNOSTICS
✓ UPGRADES
✓ NETWORKING
✓ NEW COMPUTER SET UP
✓ SOFTWARE PROBLEMS/ INSTALLATION
✓ PRINTER/MONITOR REPAIRS
✓ MAINTENANCE
LOW SERVICE RATES JOBS GUARANTEED
for home/office service, call:
727-2222

Dress up your 2003 REVO • ADVENTURE • CROSSWIND CR-V • Jimny • VANS • PICK-UP
BUY FACTORY PRICE
MOST COMPLETE ACCESSORIES FOR A.U.V.
2003 HONDA CR-V ACCESSORIES LOWEST PRICE While Supply Last!!!
ISUZU CROSSWIND X.U.V. CONVERSION PACKAGE DEAL P40,000 (WE CONVERT YOUR XL, XT, XTO INTO XUV)
TOYOTA REVO SPORTS RUNNER (SR) CONVERSION PACKAGE DEAL P18,000.00
AVAIL PACKAGE DEAL!!! WRAP AROUND STAINLESS BULL BARS P 17,000 only (FRONT, SIDE, REAR)
ALSO AVAILABLE:
• ADVENTURE SUPER SPORT CONVERSION P30,000
• HI-LANDER X-TRM CONVERSION P30,000
• FUEGO SPORTS (4X4 LOOK) CONVERSION P25,000
NOW AVAILABLE 2003 SUZUKI Jimny ACCESSORIES
WE WILL BEAT Any Price
KI-LONG 7228085 / 413-8060/77
PASAR MOBIL ACCESSORIES
WE ACCEPT PROVINCIAL SERVICES & DELIVERIES



THE EVOLUTION OF A HAIR TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE.
BEFORE HAIR TRANSPLANT
3 MONTHS AFTER
8 MONTHS AFTER
It's not your imagination. It's genetics. You are losing your hair! You are starting to look older than you really are. Andrew G. Pineda, M.D., a full-time Beverly Hills trained hair transplant surgeon can bring back your youth. It is permanent. It is natural. It is real No maintenance needed. All you need is a monthly haircut.
Andrew G. Pineda M.D.
MANILA 8130691 ; DAVAO 2212682
www.pinedahair.com



Asia International Auctioneers, Inc.
AIA Trucks & Equipment
"NO-MINIMUM-PRICE" PUBLIC AUCTION
MAR. 14 - 16, 2003
INSPECTION: MAR. 11-13 FRI-SUN Sale Starts at 8 A.M.
ALL MUST GO! • AUCTION STYLE: PARADE • BUY ONE OR TAKE 'M ALL
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in ASIA
39 - MOTOR GRADERS KOMATSU GD525A
60 - BULLDOZERS KOMATSU D60P LGP
54 - ROAD ROLLERS INGERSOLL RAND SP56
98 - EXCAVATORS KUBOTA KH12FD 4WD
31 - TANKER TRUCKS ISUZU CXG TANKER
185 - DUMP TRUCKS FUSO FV DUMP TRUCK
38 - REEFER VANS ISUZU FWD REF VAN
162 - CARGO CBU ISUZU ELF NPR
MITS CANTER RAILROAD DUMP
50 - GENERATOR SETS 10-220 KVA GENSETS
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Mla. Tel: (02) 531-5789 / 531-5751 / 531-5061 • Fax: (047) 252-6840
Subic Tel: (047) 252-3333 / 252-7936 / 252-6841
E-mail: info@asia-intl-auctioneers.com • Website: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Trucks & Equipment Financing Available Thru: ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. Tel. (02) 858-8888
To join, pls. bring: 1) VALID PHOTO ID & 2) P100,000 IN CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
TRULY, One of Asia's Finest Auctioneers!

BOSCH Ideas that work.
BOSCH just got even more power-packed!
GBM 450 RE DRILL / DRIVER Suitable for screwdriving • 450W, reversible, variable speed ~~P 3,280~~ NOW P 2,595
GSB 400 10 mm IMPACT DRILL Drills in wood, metal & concrete ~~P 3,360~~ NOW P 2,495
GSB 550-RE 13 mm IMPACT DRILL For drilling & screwdriving in wood, metal and concrete • 550W, reversible ~~P 5,080~~ NOW P 3,899
GST 54 JIGSAW Cuts metal, wood & plastics fast and easy! • 350W, 54mm cutting depth ~~P 4,880~~ NOW P 3,999
GWS 6-100 100 mm MINI-GRINDER For regular grinding & cutting • 670W ~~P 3,280~~ NOW P 2,595
GWS 8-100CE MULTI-PURPOSE MINI-GRINDER With overload protection & variable speed • 850W, 2800-11000 rpm ~~P 4,560~~ NOW P 3,649
GWS 20-180 INDUSTRIAL ANGLE GRINDER • 2000W ~~P 6,500~~ NOW P 5,999
GHO 10-82 PLANER The fastest planer in its class • 710W, 3mm planing depth ~~P 6,500~~ NOW P 5,299
Bosch Power Tools - famous for its world-renowned German Technology - powers you with great savings!
Plus! Get this free carry-all tool box worth P 399 with every purchase!
FREE
Hurry! Available from February 15 to March 31 only!
For inquiries, call: TRUNKLINE 817-32-31
TRULY PROFESSIONAL.
Robert Bosch Inc. G/F, Zuellig Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., 1200 Makati City Tel. 844-8835, 818-1303 loc. 223 & 224 Fax. 843-8144 Email: powertools@ph.bosch.com
Dealers: All ACE HARDWARE and SM HARDWARE WORKSHOP outlets nationwide; MANILA: 733-0783 / 733-4638 • EVERCON BUILDERS 733-5287 • GOLDRICH 242-9358 • GRINDMASTER 242-9973 • HI-D INDUSTRIAL 241-3870 • KINGSTEEL 733-1892 • LYS HARDWARE 251-9126 • NKD INTERNATIONAL 711-6923 • PANDA CONSTRUCTION 242-6154 • SUY HUAT 733-4684 • YALE HARDWARE 251-9542 QUEZON CITY: AICAH 740-0522 • FIL-AMERICAN 912-5555; 362-7153 • ANONAS CONSTRUCTION 929-2955; 924-2752; 935-4476 • HILONGOS INDUSTRIAL 454-0421 • P & M TRADING 912-4918 • PANDA CONTRUCTION 716-8381 • ROLINS 727-1375 • SALESMASTER 741-9087 • VICSTEEL 912-6333 • VS HARDWARE 365-6799 KALOOKAN: CROWN MILL 364-5028 • HARROWS INDUSTRIAL 362-3887 • RSV GEN. MDSE. 365-7241 VALENZUELA: 4TH ST. MARKETING 368-2109 ALABANG: A. DOMINGO INDUSTRIAL 861-2476 • TOOLS SPECIALIZT 850-3939 MANDALUYONG: BOSCH SHOP 633-8990 MAKATI: IRWIN HARDWARE 633-7978 ANTIPOLO: BAYAN MDSE. 645-4807 • HILONGOS INDUSTRIAL 454-0421 • PORNEL 249-0669 MARIKINA: MLC HARDWARE 941-4055 PASIG: NCR COMMERCIAL 641-0380 (LUZON) BAGUIO: NORTHLANDER (074)422-2911 • BATANGAS: GENASCO MKTG. (043)723-0451 • NEW TOP STEEL (043) 980-6868 BICOL: BENITO NGO MKTG. (054)6550112 • OMEGA KRIS-JOHN (052)820-2271 • RAYAN MDSG. (054)811-6915 BULACAN: TERESA GEN. MDSE. (044)662-1869 • TQG MDSG. CAVITE: COLORWAY (046)970-1892 LAGUNA: CRESAR ENTERPRISES (049)837-0958 • ECD ENT. (049) 837-1193 • FS PROGRESSIVE (049)800-1076 • PLATERO INDUSTRIAL 699-2026 LA UNION: CENTRO LUMBER (072) 242-1043 • LU NATION CONST. (072)888-2010 • PHIL. TOPWOOD (072)700-0223 ILOCOS: POPULAR LUMBER (077)7428038 PAMPANGA: ASUMCO PAINT (045)322-1317 PANGASINAN: CHRIS HARDWARE (075)515-8795 • DAGUPAN FILCO (075)522-0883 QUEZON: POLARIS HARDWARE (042) 710-6405 • SILANGAN MARINE (042)710-2959 • HANSON ENTERPRISES (042)373-1234 (VISAYAS) AKLAN: AKLAN TRIUMPH (036)268-4847 BACOLOD: BACOLOD PYRAMID (034)433-4848 • CY ONG MULTI-DIST (034)434-4360 CEBU: CEBU BELMONT (032)2561252-54 • CEBU ATLANTIC (032)261-4892 (ARANAS); 272-1007 (TALISAY); 346-2885 (MANDAUE) • (PLARIDEL); 346-4288 (MANDAUE) • COM HARDWARE (032)412-0944 DUMAGUETE: REJOICE (035)422-6762 ILOILO: NIPPON ENGINEERING (033)337-3232 TACLOBAN: WASHINGTON TRADING (053)325-5978 (MINDANAO) DAVAO: DAVAO DIAMOND (082)222-0433 • TEBROS HARDWARE (082)221-3447 GENERAL SANTOS: DADIANGAS GLASS (083) 552-2970 • SUPREME HARDWARE DEPOT (083)552-2584 ZAMBOANGA: CHIU TIEN UN HARDWARE (062)221-3262 • NATIONWIDE SALES (062)991-0162 • MANILA BAZAAR (062)991-2529 • ZENITH CONSTRUCTION (062)992-5383
6 months warranty
With 10 authorized service outlets to serve you nationwide.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0265, Series of 2003.

Simply easier to own

Before
P4,490
NOKIA
Now
P4,190
SMART
Buddy
Pro-paid
Money
SMART

Recognize a good deal when you see one?

SMART offers the Nokia 3315 at a price like never before.

Now you can get a SMART Buddy Nokia 3315 phonekit for only P4,190. Enjoy calls and text messaging with this cellone that's as easy to use as it is on the budget.

Best of all, it's powered by the SMART 64K Super SIM for easy access to value-added services like SMART zed and SMART Money.

Get SMART today!

SMART
Simply Amazing

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0676 [illegible]

Offer runs until February 28, 2003 only.

Available in the following SMART dealers: Wintelecom • Quickcomm • Semicon • Comworks • Telemart Com • Mega Cellular • ADI Telecoms • First Telecoms • Telecom Concepts • [illegible]
Also available in these special TSI dealers: Miletrix • E-Store Exchange • CDI (Centennial Distributor, Inc.) • TID (Fone Tech / Wellcomm) • Cellsite • S&R (Price Smart) • Advantage Products Corp.

FLASH: Couple robbed, killed

AN ELDERLY couple was robbed and killed inside a house in Parañaque City yesterday afternoon. The bodies of Primo Espiritu, 63, and his 55-year-old wife, Catalina had multiple stab wounds and were discovered inside their ransacked room at 1936 Ilang-Ilang St., Sitio Matakdo, San Isidro at 12:45 p.m. The helper who found the victims has been invited for questioning. *Christian Esguerra*

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Man killed in another fire A26

Goons outwitting cops

By Philip C. Tubeza

GOONS continued to run circles around cops yesterday, four days after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo scolded police authorities for failure to curb rampant criminality in the streets.

The presidential rebuke was supposed to have jolted police to action.

PNP Chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. immediately ordered officials to deploy 85 percent of their staff to crime-prone areas.

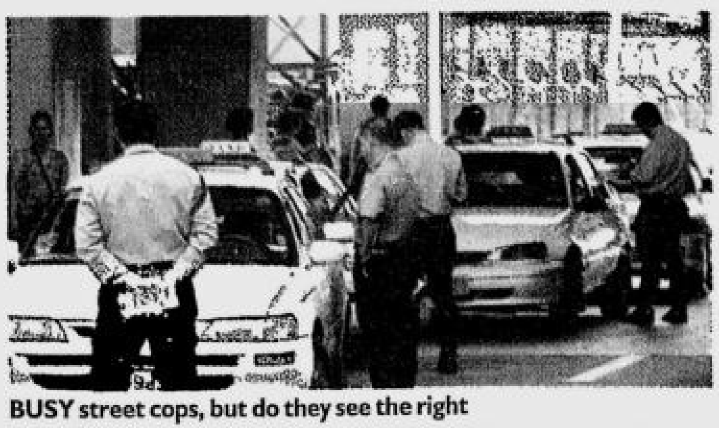
But yesterday, a security agency owned by a retired Army colonel was robbed in Quezon City.

Over the weekend, a Dutch man, an Israeli, and an American fell victim to robbers and the Ativan Gang in separate incidents in Manila's tourist belt.

A Rizal provincial prosecutor also lost her cellular phone to robbers inside an FX taxi along España early on Saturday morning.

The Hot Rod Security Agency lost about P100,000 worth of office equipment when two robbers sneaked into its office at Pelaez Extension, Barangay Kaligayahan, QC. The agency is owned by Ret. Army Col. Jose Cortez.

The foreigners victimized by the Ativan Gang were identified as Dutch businessman Raymundus Adrianus Theodosus, 36, of Warmond, Netherlands, and currently billeted at the Richmond Pension House in Malate, Manila; Israeli student Erez Hanan Kirmayer, 27, of the Malate Pension House; and American tourist David Franklin Bruce, 52, of Room 1016 Manila Midtown Hotel.



BUSY street cops, but do they see the right things? ROMY HOMILLADA

Theodosus was robbed of his 18 K gold necklace worth $160 and P800 in cash; Kirmayer lost a traveller's check worth $200, and P2,000 and $60 in cash, while Bruce did not say how much he lost to Ativan gang members.

Rizal provincial prosecutor Julia A. Reyes, 42, said she lost her Nokia 3310 cell phone, worth P6,500, to robbers.

Kirmayer said she was walking along Adriatico Street in Malate at around 2 p.m. on Feb. 21 when her three assailants struck.

She said a woman and two men forcibly took her belongings in broad daylight before they fled.

At around 2:15 a.m. Saturday, Theodosus said he was walking home at the corner of Orquiza and Mabini streets in Ermita when he was robbed.

Two men—one of them described as 17 to 19 years old, 5'5", of medium build, and brown-complex-

GOONS/ A26

LLAMAS FAMILY

Hopeful despite grief

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHAT'S there to be excited about? He's dead and the bar exam results, even if he lands in the top 10, would only give us more grief.

ABDULRAHMAN

This lament was voiced yesterday by Mike Atayde, cousin of slain Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas.

With the results of the 2002 bar examinations expected tomorrow, relatives have refused to await or talk about them since Llamas' cold-blooded death at the hands of a gun-wielding motorist in Pasay City last Jan. 10.

Before the killing, hopes were high for Llamas to perform well in the bar examinations. He graduated among the top 25 students of the Ateneo Law school, said lawyer Vic Verdadero, the victim's "brod" at the Aquila Legis fraternity who also heads the three-man legal panel prosecuting the case.

Atayde said the only consolation relatives could receive in time for the bar results would be the arrest of Bashir Abdulrahman, the man who allegedly shot dead Llamas over a minor traffic altercation.

The Ateneo community on Wednesday sponsored a Mass at the school chapel, 40 days after the killing.

To further speed up the arrest of Abdulrahman, the Llamas family sought the help of House Speaker Jose de Venecia who then phoned National Bureau of Investigation Chief Reynaldo Wycoco.

During the 40th day Mass, the Llamas family expressed hope that the government, the media, and the public at large will remain vigilant and support them in their quest to give justice to Jay by arresting Abdulrahman, who also goes by the aliases Basher Macaindig Sultan and Basher Makaindig Alonto.

The Llamas family said it has learned that Abdulrahman is a big-time drug dealer who eluded arrest last year in a shabu drug bust operation in Quiapo.

The NBI has filed murder charges against Abdulrahman on Feb. 4 at the Pasay Prosecutor's office. A warrant of arrest has been issued directing all law enforcement agencies to effect the immediate arrest of Abdulrahman who, police records showed, is suspected of killing six other people in the past.

The Llamas family also learned, through eyewitness reports, that Abdulrahman, minutes before shooting Jay, fought with another pair of motorists. When the motorists saw Abdulrahman's mug shot in the papers, they were aghast as they claimed they could've been the victims of the gunman.

A reward of P750,000 has been offered to anyone who could help in the capture of the fugitive.

For any information that would lead to the arrest of Abdulrahman, please contact NBI NCR Chief Atty. Edmund Arugay at 0917-964-0760, agent Atty. Hector Geologo at 0917-814-3479 or tel. Nos. 524-3283 or 528-8231 loc. 351/3460.

BMW crash victim at UP, a vendor's child, dies

By Agnes E. Donato

AFTER four days of fighting for her life, a victim in last Tuesday's gory BMW car crash at the University of the Philippines succumbed to head injuries the other night.

For the first time since the accident, Precious Baldo, 20, showed at about 6 p.m. Saturday some signs of brain activity.

Doctors at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center tried to revive her, but she expired an hour later.

Her remains were brought yesterday afternoon to the Delaney Hall at the UP Diliman Chapel and will be transferred to her hometown in Trinidad, Benguet today.

A child of a meter reader and a vegetable vendor, Baldo was killed when a speeding BMW driven by an allegedly drunk man crashed through the UP Kamia Residence Hall on Tuesday night.

Baldo and four other students, who were then on the dormitory's driveway waiting for a concert to start all sustained injuries in the accident.

Baldo, a member of the dormitory's council, was among the organizers of the concert, which was titled "Death to Pop."

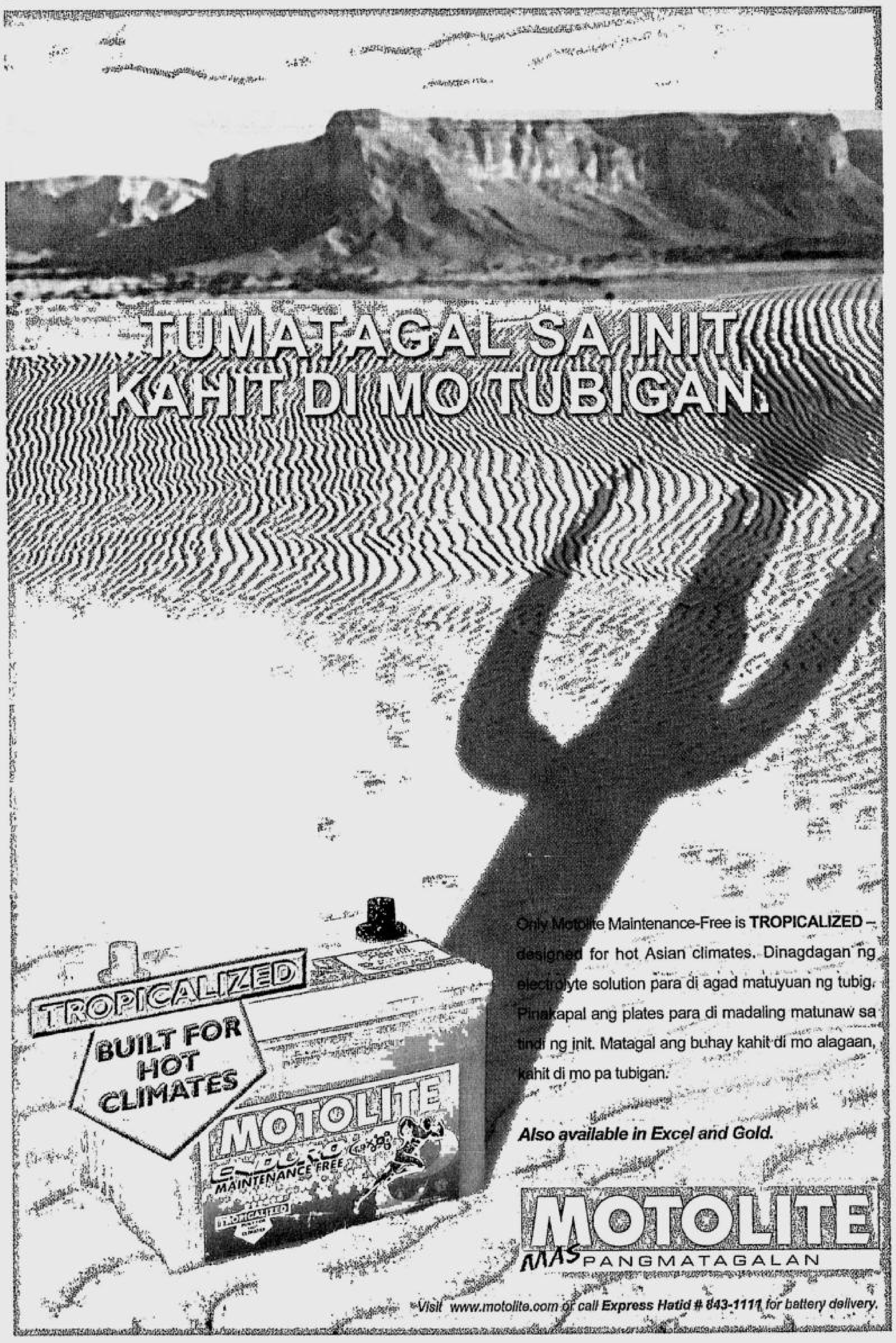
She was in her first year as a BA

BMW/ A26

onstage 2nyt
8th day — COOL CHANGE — FEB. 27 - REAL GROOVE, FEB. 28 - PASSAGE
☎ 910-6681/638-9511
Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644 — STREETLIFE KNIGHTS — NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474 — VERSE 7, MUSIC CIRCUIT, BROWNIE / GIFTED MIND — NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143 — J. BROTHERS, MR. ROXY — NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 — JAMM EDGE, ICE KENDI — NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 — MIXED-UP SAINTS — ORIENT PEARL FEB.27
TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735 — FANTASIA, 3RD DEGREE — NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429 — BRIDGES, REAL THING — NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473 — SOUTH EDGE — NO ENTRANCE FEE
FEB.24 MONDAY

SHARK Rule the Road
REVO Package!!!
SHARK ROOF CADDY ·no crossbar ·low mount ·safe on mall parkings
SURESTEP STEPBOARD ·w/ courtesy lights
FREE! BUILT-IN BACK-UP SENSOR *For Every Revo Promo Package of: ·Roof Caddy ·Rear Bumper ·Stepboard
SHARK STAINLESS REAR BUMPER ·with third brake lights
VALID AT SURESTEP The No Holes Board 1013A EDSA, Veteran's Vill., Project 7, Quezon City ☎410-3067/65 · 372-3640
PROMO ENDS UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST!

THE WEINSTEIN Acousticon®
FOR AS LOW AS ₱8,000 d.p.
#1 since 1916
MAIN OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao Tels. 912-4884 / 912-4886
1916-2003 87 YEARS OF SERVICE
LAS PIÑAS: Uniwide Metro Mall BACLARAN: Uniwide Coastal NOVALICHES: Tels. 983-0806 / 936-7407 CAINTA: Tel. 681-7447 SAN PEDRO: Tel. 898-0048 BATANGAS: Fiesta Mall, Lipa City PANGASINAN: Magic Appliances BOHOL: Tel. (083) 411-4576 CAGAYAN DE ORO: Tel. (088) 857-5361 LUCENA: Tel. (042) 710-4037 DAVAO: Tel. (082) 227-7761 VISMIN: Conpinco Marketing
Weinstein



TUMATAGAL SA INIT KAHIT DI MO TUBIGAN.
Only Motolite Maintenance-Free is TROPICALIZED – designed for hot Asian climates. Dinagdagan ng electrolyte solution para di agad matuyuan ng tubig. Pinakapal ang plates para di madaling matunaw sa tindi ng init. Matagal ang buhay kahit di mo alagaan, kahit di mo pa tubigan.
Also available in Excel and Gold.
MOTOLITE MAS PANGMATAGALAN
Visit www.motolite.com or call Express Hatid # 843-1111 for battery delivery.

NIDA SLAY

A long, complicated extradition process

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT COULD take two years before Rod Lauren Strunk is eventually extradited back to the Philippines, a National Bureau of Investigation official bared yesterday.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol unit chief, said he expects a long extradition trial for the primary suspect in the murder of actress Nida Blanca.

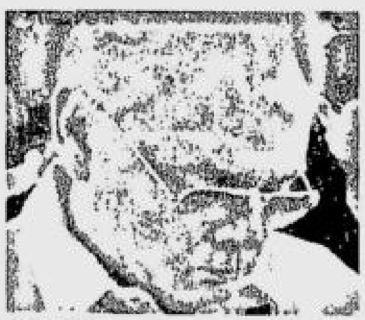
"We expect a full blown extradition hearing for Strunk," Diaz said.

He noted that the suspect is an American citizen and that might "complicate things."

He said that US authorities had extradited to the Philippines three criminal suspects--including bank scam suspect Marilyn Nite.

"It did not take long. However, they were all Filipino citizens. This time, the process might take some time—one or two years," Diaz said.

He said the Philippine government is going to provide all case documents, Strunk's arrest warrant, and the investigators' report to the US Justice Department once the extradition request is formally filed.


STRUNK

BLANCA

Diaz said US justice officials would review the documents and decide if there is a case against Strunk.

If they are convinced, the American authorities would then ask the US extradition court to have him arrested. But Strunk's arrest does not necessarily mean that he would be extrdaited immediately.

The extradition court would still look into the evidence Philippine authorities gave and decide if there is a probable cause against Strunk and that he is not just being persecuted.

Diaz said NBI investigators are going to appear before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court on Strunk's scheduled arraignment on March 11 to formally inform the court that the suspect is in the US.

Strunk went to the United States early last year, purportedly because of his ailing mother. He promised through his lawyers to return to the country "if he is needed" in the investigation.

However, Strunk has since refused to come home, saying that he does not expect to get a fair trial in the Philippines.

Coding ends Friday—if GMA so wishes

By Christian V. Esguerra

YES, madam. No more experiments.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo had indeed so ordered, Bayani Fernando yesterday said he would end on Friday his controversial traffic experiment in Metro Manila.

"I haven't received an official order from the President," Fernando said in a phone interview. "But once I've verified her order, I would immediately comply."

Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, had extended his experiment on the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program for two weeks, until March 7, to enable him to come up with a long-term proposal to the perennial traffic problem.

With the President's order, he said he would end the experiment on Feb. 28 and collate data gathered from the month-long test period.

Fernando had initially suspended the UVVRP for three weeks, beginning Feb. 3. But with bus operators ranting about the decision, the MMDA chief imposed the scheme on buses, prompting even louder protests from the bus sector.

Soon the MMDA council modified the experiment and announced that all public utility vehicles would be placed under the UVVRP from Feb. 17 to 21.

Last Friday, Fernando announced a two-week extension of the experiment, imposing the coding system among private vehicles until Friday and among all vehicles from March 3 to 7.

"The experiment may seem complicated but our motorists should understand that we have to do this," he said. "We want to get everybody involved in it so we won't be accused of favoring a selected few once we come up with our final (traffic) system."

The traffic scheme that would be drawn from the experiment would then be proposed for implementation in congested arteries in the provinces, said Fernando who also heads the Public Works Department.

"The ultimate purpose of this experiment is to speed up and maximize road travel," he said. "The public should realize that ours is a good road system that seem inefficient and outmoded only because of obstructions and faulty traffic systems."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 24, 2003
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Sir 1:1-10**
Gospel: **Mk 9:14-29**

As Jesus came down the mountain with Peter, James and John and approached the disciples, they saw many people around and some teachers of the Law arguing with them. When the people saw Jesus, they were astonished and ran to greet him.

He asked, "What are you arguing about with them?" A man answered him from the crowd, "Master, I brought my son to you for he has a dumb spirit. Whenever the spirit seizes him, it throws him down and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth and becomes stiff all over. I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they could not."

Jesus replied, "You faithless people. How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him.

As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it shook and convulsed the boy who fell on the ground and began rolling about, foaming at the mouth. Then Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "From childhood. And it has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to destroy him. If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "Why do you say: 'If you can?' All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe, but help the little faith I have."

Jesus saw that the crowd was increasing rapidly, so he ordered the evil spirit, "Dumb and deaf spirit, I command you: Leave the boy and never enter him again." The evil spirit shook and convulsed the boy and with a terrible shriek came out. The boy lay like a corpse and people said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him and the boy stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out the spirit?" And he answered, "Only prayer can drive out this kind, nothing else."

Commentary

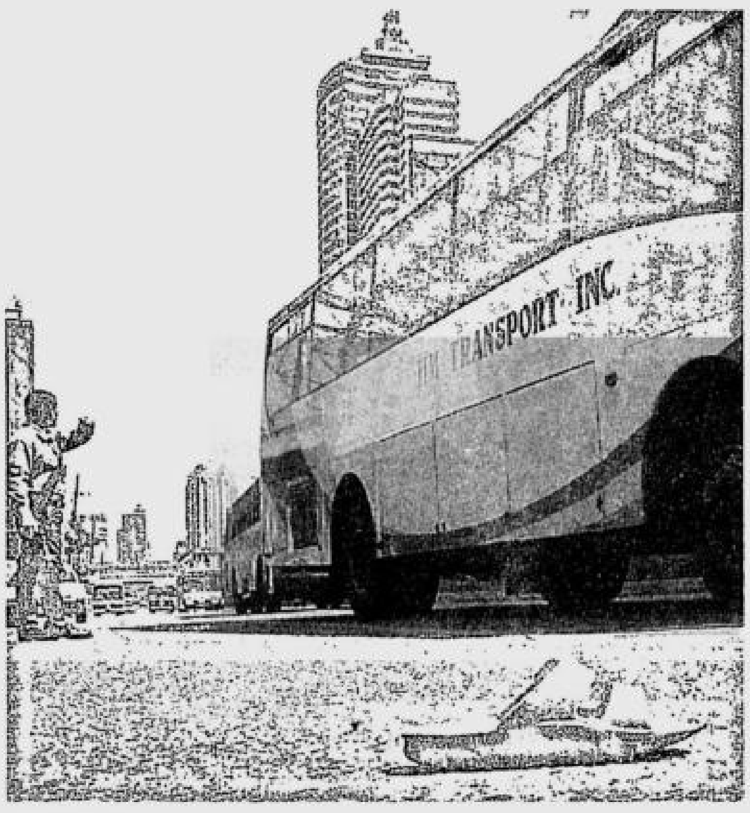
Today we are in a crowd that lacks faith. We live in an era of little faith. In such circumstances it is difficult to oppose evil. Yet if we keep our eyes on Jesus, if we remember those words of His, "All things are possible for one who believes," we will be able to overcome this lack especially if we constantly turn to the Lord and say, "I do believe, help my unbelief." Prayer is strength. The more we pray, the stronger we become in our faith, hope and love.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

AGRARIAN LAW—Appeals in agrarian cases—In Malate v. Court of Appeals, Supreme Court opined that: "In appeals in agrarian cases, the only function required of the Court of Appeals is to determine whether the findings of fact of the Court of Agrarian Relations are supported by substantial evidence. And substantial evidence has been defined to be such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion and its absence is not shown by stressing that there is contrary evidence on record, direct or circumstantial, and where the findings of fact of the agrarian court are supported by substantial evidence, such findings are conclusive and binding on the appellate court." Stated differently, the appellate court cannot make its own findings of fact and substitute the same for the findings of fact of the DARAB. A perusal of the assailed decision clearly shows that nowhere did the Court of Appeals rule that the findings of fact of the DARAB Region III Provincial Adjudicator or the DARAB-Central Office were unsupported by substantial evidence. Nor did the appellate court hold that said findings were made with grave abuse of discretion on the part of the agrarian quasi-judicial agencies. An examination of the record categorically shows that the findings of fact of the DARAB were supported by substantial evidence. Perforce, the Malate ruling must apply to the instant case. The finding of the DARAB that petitioner, by virtue of the contract of agricultural leasehold entered into between her and the Castros, is the substitute tenant of the latter in lieu of her deceased father, is binding upon the appellate court and this Court. Equally conclusive upon the court a quo and this Court is the finding by the DARAB that respondents were mere usurpers who failed to present any proof as to the existence of a tenancy relationship between them and the Castro family. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Reyes v. Reyes, G. R. No. 140164. Sept. 6, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA



STREET LIFE
The owner of this abandoned slipper, hit by a bus at the corner of Boni Ave. and Edsa, has been rushed to the hospital. The driver has been apprehended and life goes on—all in the dangerous street game.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Man killed in another fire

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN was killed and a neighbor was injured in a fire that razed at least 13 shanties in Makati City Saturday night.

Victims Chris Estepa, 40, and Benjamin Locape were trapped in their houses when fire broke out in a congested area on 14th Avenue in Barangay East Rembo at 11:46 p.m., initial investigation showed.

But while Locape managed to escape from the inferno, Estepa did not.

Firefighters recovered Estepa's remains shortly before they extinguished the flames about an hour later.

Authorities were still trying to determine the cause of the fire that destroyed an estimated P100,000 worth of property.

Salvador Flores, who was among those who lost their homes, told investigators that the fire was triggered by an unattended candle in the house of a certain Junior Canbaleng.

Though the alert level reached only the first alarm, firefighters failed to immediately douse the flames because of the narrow streets, clogged further by panicky residents.

Goons outwitting ...

From page A25

ioned—pulled out fan knives and held him up.

The suspects divested Theodosus of his valuables and fled southward, police said.

At around 2:30 p.m. the same day, Bruce was sightseeing in Intramuros when a man and three women—who turned out to be Ativan Gang members—befriended him.

The culprits allegedly offered him a drink laced with a sleep-inducing drug. The victim woke up at around 10:10 p.m.

Prosecutor Reyes was onboard an FX taxi along España at around 6:30 a.m. on Saturday when she too fell victim to robbers.

Two men held up the taxi and took her cell phone. The culprits escaped unmolested.

Last Thursday, President Macapagal Arroyo gave the PNP a dressing down for failing to stop the rising incidents of petty crimes, especially in Metro Manila.

Police authorities reacted by vowing renewed focus, revamp and intensified action.

If it's any consolation, one of the two suspects in robbery in the house owned by the retired Army colonel was arrested hours after the crime.

He was identified as Napoleon Arce, 31, of Boni Serrano, Barangay Kaligayahan, Quezon City.

This show ed police were not actually sleeping on the job. *With a report from Agnes Donato*

Here lies RP basketball

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MANY things have been said about the rise and fall of Philippine basketball in world competitions. RP, which used to be a regular fixture in the Olympics, finished third in the Brazil World Championship in 1954. But it has never returned to the Olympic fold since the 1972 Munich Games.

We give way to Lt. Col. Julian Maonso, P.A. (Res.), former President of the Philippine Olympic Committee, who boldly traces the decline of the sport:

***

Basketball became the national game of Filipinos mainly because we were among the first to play the sport, thanks to the American occupation.

In Asia, the Philippines dominated basketball in the Far Eastern Games, except in 1921.

Filipinos also excelled in volleyball, baseball, swimming and soccer football.

Though soccer fitted Filipinos well because of their courage, agility and height, it did not prosper as much as basketball hereabouts.

Before the Second World War, China and Japan were already showing threats to the domination of Filipinos in basketball. Then, after WW II, the Philippines started to decline as the other Asian countries with taller players improved.

In the World Olympics and the World Basketball Championships, our standing went down until we could no longer qualify in these two most prestigious international tournaments.

We next lost the regional domination due to the selfishness of some Filipinos who perpetuated themselves as officers of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

***

Politics crept into basketball when the Yugoslavians were denied entry into the country when the Philippines hosted the 1964 World Basketball Championship.

Senator Ambrosio B. Padilla, president of the BAP then, had presidential ambitions. But Pres. Diosdado Macapagal refused entry to Yugoslavia, a satellite of Russia, for fear of communist infiltration.

The BAP was heavily penalized by the international body. The morale of the Filipino players also went down.

Internal politics in sports sadly disrupted the development program.

An ambitious man used his uncle as a leverage against the incumbent BAP president that eventually Senator Padilla decided not to run for re-election, thereby leaving the race for the presidency of the BAP wide open.

A rumble of candidates appeared and, instead of improving basketball, they used all dirty tricks in the elections, to the point of even soliciting the help of dissidents.

The successor to Senator Padilla as BAP head used the name of their family and even treated basketball and box ing as enterprises of their business protected by the power of politics.

Some leaders who could not stomach this selfish leadership formed a professional league, which was more attractive because of monetary considerations.

Inevitably, point-shaving, the throwing away of games, changed the ambition of the youth and even affected other sports.

The only attractions were the international competitions that fell in the hands of the professional league.

When basketball was declared open by the International Olympic Committee, the worst came. The handling of the national team fell in the hands of the professional league, where businessmen exploited the youth for the purpose of advertising their products.

In the last Busan Asian Games, despite sending another all-pro team, the Philippine team finished out the medal.

The RP National team was made up of Fil-Americans whose citizenships were doubted, thus leading to a Senate inquiry.

The anomaly even reached the collegiate level with two Fil-Americans being suspected of throwing away the championship game.

Suspicions of a fixed game destroyed the friendly rivalry of two well-known Catholic institutions of learning. No serious steps have been taken by the league for fear of reprisals.

With all these, it's easy to say Philippine basketball is being buried below the ground.

BMW crash victim

From page A25

Philosophy student, having shifted from BS Chemistry last year.

"What happened to Precious was really tragic. She was in Kamia then, looking forward to a night of fun. But she suffered this instead," said Charlie Dela Cruz, a friend of the victim.

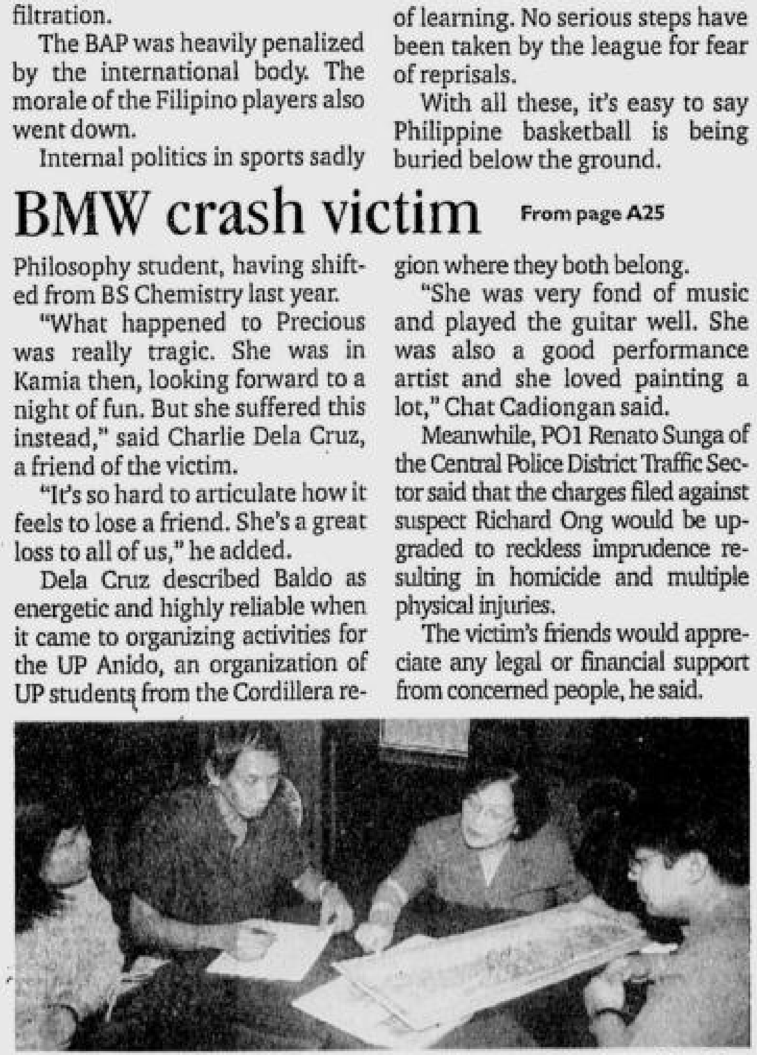
"It's so hard to articulate how it feels to lose a friend. She's a great loss to all of us," he added.

Dela Cruz described Baldo as energetic and highly reliable when it came to organizing activities for the UP Anido, an organization of UP students from the Cordillera region where they both belong.

"She was very fond of music and played the guitar well. She was also a good performance artist and she loved painting a lot," Chat Cadiongan said.

Meanwhile, PO1 Renato Sunga of the Central Police District Traffic Sector said that the charges filed against suspect Richard Ong would be upgraded to reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and multiple physical injuries.

The victim's friends would appreciate any legal or financial support from concerned people, he said.



THE POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines is in the midst of preparations for the celebration of its centennial next year. Related to these, is the recent donation to the PUP of Sculptor Ed Castrillo's framed drawing of his huge brass mural—a depiction of the genesis and progress of the institution through the years—which adorns the left facade of the University's Main Mabini Campus in Sta. Mesa, Manila. Photo shows PUP President Ofelia M. Carague (second from right) conferring with the sculptor as some students look on.

Human bones dug up in Tondo

By Philip C. Tubeza

RESIDENTS of Coral and Sando Streets in Tondo, Manila are puzzled at the discovery of human bones in a septic tank last Saturday afternoon.

"The bones were found in the septic tank in the house of Marlie B. Alcantara at 624 Coral corner Sando Streets in Tondo, Manila,!" said Detective Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District-homicide section.

The septic tank was being excavated.

But longtime residents who have lived in the neighborhood since 1938, told investigators that they could not remember any violent crime that occurred in the area.

Police said that Alcantara's brother Noel and several of their neighbors were digging the septic tank at about 4 p.m. last Saturday.

The diggers at first thought that they had dug up animal bones.

They were shocked when an employee of a funeral parlor in the area told them that the bones belonged to a human.

The discovery was then reported to police. Investigators went to the Alcantara residence and retrieved the bones.

Specialists from the Western Police District-Scene of the Crime Operations are now examining the bones.

Couple, woman get life for selling shabu

By Nelson Forte Flores

A COUPLE and a woman were sentenced to life imprisonment for drug trafficking in Taguig, Rizal five years ago.

In his 10-page decision, Regional Trial Court Branch 156 Judge Alex Quiroz said Ramil Sangebang and his wife Aida, and Aiza Karim were found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of drug trafficking.

Aside from the the prison term, Judge Quiroz also ordered the convicts to pay a fine of P2 million.

Court records showed that members of the anti-narcotics group of the Philippine National Police arrested the Sangebang couple and Karim in Taguig, Rizal five years ago for selling 213.35 grams of high grade metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu worth P250,000 to an undercover agent.

The convicts were on board a tricycle when they conducted the sale, the records said.

Investigation also showed that Karim was the one who handed the illegal substance to the undercover agent.

The convicts were counting the money from the sale of the illegal drugs when police arrested them.

In their defense, the convicts claimed that authorities had planted the drugs on them.

They said the operation was a setup.

The Sangebang couple also denied that they knew Karim.

But Judge Quiroz rejected their defense, noting that the prosecution had "convincingly established that the three accused conspired to sell the shabu, without authority of law."

Management expert eyed for GSIS top post

MANAGEMENT expert Benjamin Santos might soon replace Winston Garcia as the head of the Government Service Insurance System, according to a highly-placed industry source.

The source said that a high-ranking palace official has recommended Santos for the post.

Garcia is said to be undergoing daily dialysis due to his worsening kidney condition. Santos was executive vice president of Philippine American Life Insurance Co.

He is now a director of Mt. Samat Ferry Express Inc., Omni Aviation Corp. and Philippine Health Care Providers Inc.

Santos, an MBA graduate of the University of California in Los Angeles, USA, has worked in different capacities for both local and multi-national companies like Del Monte Corp., Proter & Gamble Phil., Inc., and General Time Corp. in Connecticut, USA, among others.

He was also a founding director of the now defunct Urban Development Bank and CEO of Industrial Finance Corp., a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

Family meet against drug abuse urged

A DRUG testing company called on local participants of the recent World Meeting of Families to convene a National Family Summit Against Drug Abuse.

Drugs have contributed heavily to marital breakups, incarceration of family members, unwanted pregnancies and a host of other social problems, according to Mylon Villasante, spokesperson of DrugCheck Philippines Inc.

He said the recent family summit illustrated the need to protect the family as an institution.

"The family as the basic social and political unit must be protected," Villasante said. "The dissolution of the family can only breed numerous social ills. By meeting as a collective force, a Family Summit might lead to solutions against drug abuse in the family, school and community levels."

Among the issues that should be discussed in the family meet against drug abuse should be the educational component of the government anti-drug abuse campaign and the rehabilitation of drug dependent family members as contained in Art. VIII of RA 9165.

Weekend seminar offers hope to hurting couples

RETROUVAILLE (French for rediscovery), a Catholic healing ministry, offers hope to hurting couples.

The program helps husbands and wives pick up the pieces and rebuild loving relationships.

Many married couples who are struggling to stay together or who have separated but want to reconcile and sincerely desire to build a stable and lasting relationship have turned to Retrouveille for help and have experienced hope and healing in their marriages.

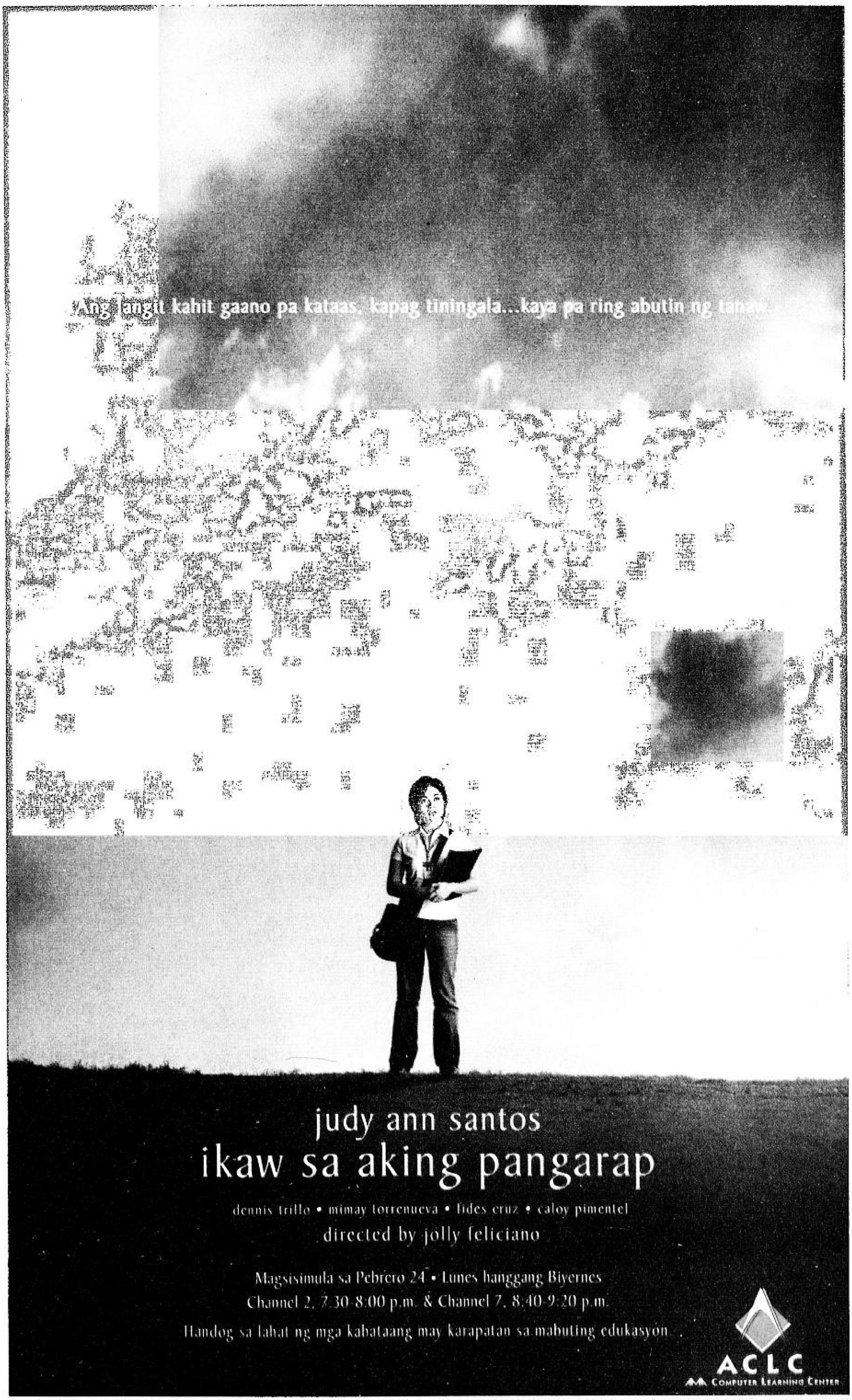
The Retrouveille program is a live-in weekend program with six follow-up Sunday afternoon sessions during which couples are helped to reestablish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.

The weekend presentation will have a priest and three couples who have themselves gone through conflict, disillusionment and misery in their relationships and have experienced the Retrouvaille program.

Retrouvaille has scheduled another weekend from February 28 to March 2, 2003 at the Saidi Formation House, Antipolo City.

The follow-up sessions will be held in Quezon City.

For inquiries and reservations, call Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511; Ike and Flor at 718-0689 and Tom and Ruby at 931-8413.


Ang langit kahit gaano pa kataas, kapag tiningala...kaya pa ring abutin ng tanaw.
ACLC
AMA Computer Learning Center

judy ann santos
ikaw sa aking pangarap
dennis trillo • mimay torrenueva • fides cruz • caloy pimentel
directed by jolly feliciano
Magsisimula sa Pebrero 24 • Lunes hanggang Biyernes
Channel 2, 7:30-8:00 p.m. & Channel 7, 8:40-9:20 p.m.
Handog sa lahat ng mga kabataang may karapatan sa mabuting edukasyon.

NCR CAMPUSES: Alabang • Buendia • Cainta • Caloocan • Commonwealth • Cubao • Dimasalang • España • Guadalupe • Lagro • Las Piñas • Mandaluyong • Marikina • Roosevelt • Novaliches • Northbay • Paco Pasig • Roces • Sangandaan • Sta. Mesa • Taguig *Region 1* Alaminos • Baguio • Candon • Dagupan • Laoag • San Fernando, La Union • Urdaneta *Region 2* Bayombong • Cauayan • Ilagan • Santiago *Region 3* Angeles • Balanga • Cabanatuan • Gapan • Tarlac • Iba • Malolos • Rosario • Meycauayan • Olongapo • San Jose City • San Fernando, Pampanga *Region 4* Antipolo • Bacoor • Dasmariñas • Gumaca Los Baños • Lemery • Nasugbu • Palawan • Candelaria • San Pablo • Sta. Cruz • San Pedro • Lucena • Tanay • Taylay *Region 5* Daet • Iriga • Legazpi • Naga • Sorsogon *Visayas* Aklan • Bacolod • Dumaguete Lapu-lapu • Mandaue • Roxas • Tacloban • Tagbilaran • Iloilo • Cebu *Mindanao* Bukidnon • Butuan • Gen. Santos • Davao • Iligan • Marbel • Cagayan de Oro • Ozamis • Surigao • Tagum • Zamboanga

Amy Perez: God prepared me to move on after 'MTB'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS
Leah Salterio

BITTER and depressed after learning she would no longer be included in the reformatted version of ABS-CBN's daily noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB)," **Amy Perez** cried in her room the day she heard the news from network executive **Charo Santos-Concio**, two weeks ago.

Amy, who "patented" the popular "Esep-Esep" line from the widely followed "MTB" game portion, "Pera o Bayong," had been with ABS-CBN for 15 years. Doing a daily noontime show had been her job for nearly half of her life, starting with Pepe Pimentel's "Kwarta o Kahon," then on to "Kalatog Pinggan," "'Sang Linggo naApo Sila" and "MTB." It was understandable that Amy initially didn't take the news lightly.

"From the time I've been hearing the talk that I would no longer join the new 'MTB,' that was already painful for me," Amy shares. "So when I was finally told about it, I felt really sad and I cried. I questioned God, like what I did when my marriage crumbled."

Amy was among the old batch of hosts removed from the reformatted "MTB." The others are **Roderick Paulate, Marvin Agustin, Dominic Ochoa, Pia Guanio** and **Angela Velez.**

Inside Amy's room at home, her five-year-old son **Adi** (with singer **Brix Ferraris**), saw the lady host in tears.

"Adi is always affected when he sees me sad," Amy allows. "I told him I'm just tired, but I also had to explain to him why he would no longer see me everyday on TV at noon."

"He said the people who removed me from the show are bad, but I had to tell him they're not, so he would not be antagonistic toward them. Even before I finished, my son ran to his room and locked the door.

"When I knocked to ask what he was doing, he said he was praying to Papa Jesus. Then I told him to open the door so I could hear him. He said, 'Papa Jesus, give my mom *dami-dami* work *para I have dami-dami* money for Timezone.'"

The second child and eldest girl in a brood of four, Amy discloses prayers and her faith in God saw her through another difficult time in her life, after she separated from Brix. The other time she questioned God was during the breakup of her marriage.

"I realized I have to accept the fact that Brix was not God's gift to me," Amy says. "I only fell in love with him."

Amy's depression worsened when she was hospitalized because of flu. Little did she know a door would open while she was in her hospital bed.

Chinkee Tan, a former Hawi Boy of **Randy Santiago**, came up to her with an offer to host a new weekly program on RPN 9.

"Buhay Milyonaryo" is being produced by the Millionaires in Business (MIB), with Chinkee as one of the partners.

MIB marketing officer **Erickson Raymundo** told the INQUIRER Amy was the first choice to host "Buhay Milyonaryo," after they learned she would be out of "MTB."

"I'm excited about this new program," Amy says. "It's a new challenge for me, new system, new network. I have to adjust and I want to deliver well. When people get me to do something, I don't want to disappoint them. That's what I learned from **Tito Pepe** (Pimentel) and the Apo Hiking Society."

Amy has also admirably learned to keep a positive attitude, despite the not-so-good things that have happened in her personal life and her career.

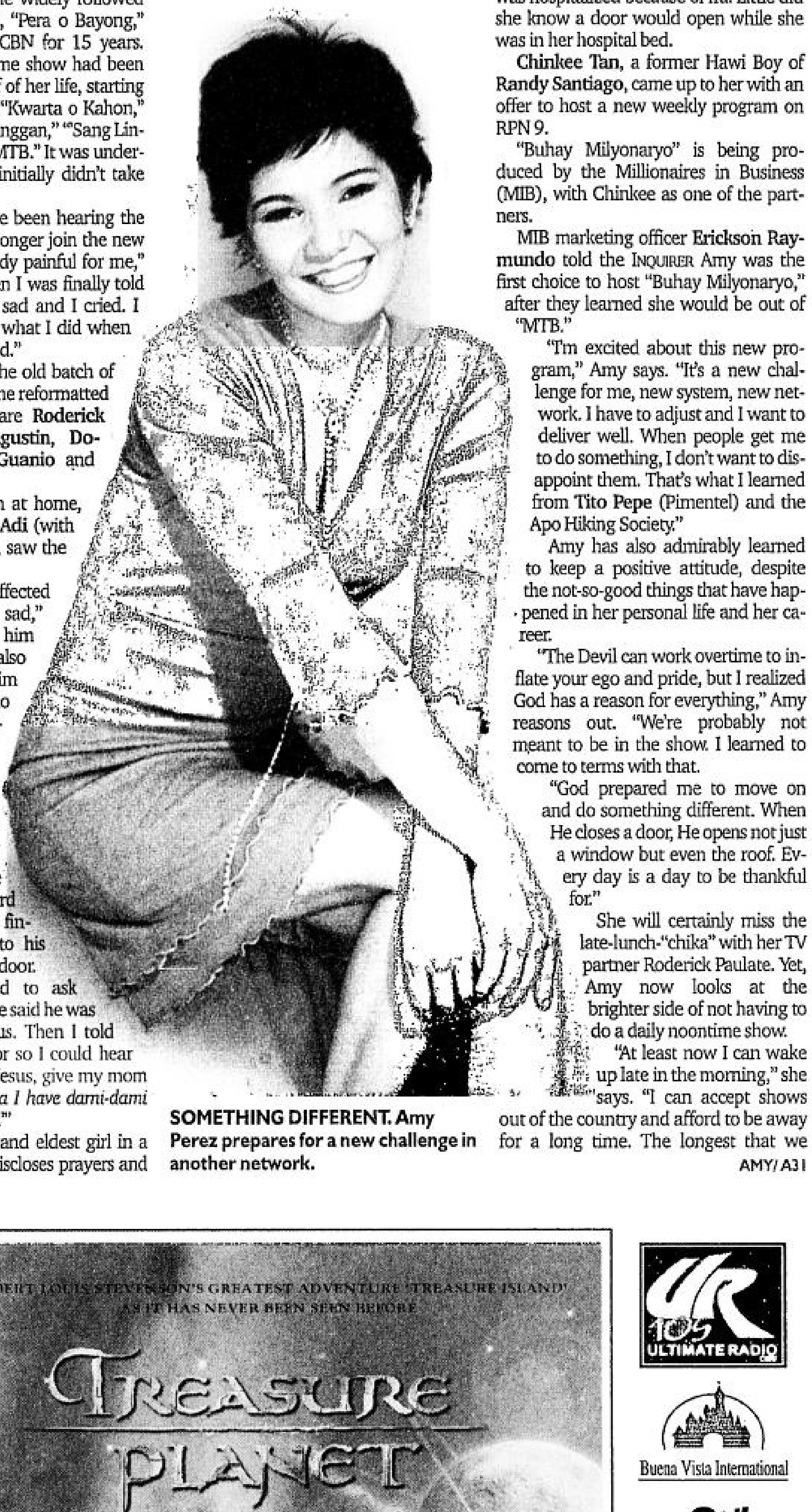
"The Devil can work overtime to inflate your ego and pride, but I realized God has a reason for everything," Amy reasons out. "We're probably not meant to be in the show. I learned to come to terms with that.

"God prepared me to move on and do something different. When He closes a door, He opens not just a window but even the roof. Every day is a day to be thankful for."

She will certainly miss the late-lunch-"chika" with her TV partner Roderick Paulate. Yet, Amy now looks at the brighter side of not having to do a daily noontime show.

"At least now I can wake up late in the morning," she says. "I can accept shows out of the country and afford to be away for a long time. The longest that we

AMY/A31



SOMETHING DIFFERENT. Amy Perez prepares for a new challenge in another network.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST. Michel Legrand and Regine Velasquez in a well-produced, well-performed concert.

'SONGBIRD SINGS LEGRAND'

Flawed, though significant show

By Vladimir S. Bunoan
Contributor

REVIEW

AFTER last year's successful pairing of well-loved composer Michel Legrand and local pop diva Kuh Ledesma -- also for Valentine's Day -- concert producers Maxi-Media International was encouraged to bring back the French maestro to Manila but this time with belter Regine Velasquez.

It has been reported that the composer had always wanted to work with Velasquez, except that last year, the songbird had already set a date with American R and B artist Brian McKnight at the Araneta Coliseum. Well, this year, the Frenchman got his wish.

I wish I could say the same with concertgoers. There is no doubt that "Songbird Sings Legrand" is one of the biggest hits in the concert scene so far this year. Originally slated for two nights at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), the producers had to add one more performance (Sunday) to accommodate the huge demand for tickets. And that show, too, was practically sold out.

Standing ovation

Despite the appreciative response from the audience -- the performers were given a standing ovation with a sputtering of "Bravos!" from the gallery -- I sensed it was more out of respect. Their high expectations were not fully met.

So allow me to voice it out. "Songbird Sings Legrand" is a flawed though significant show. And it's not as impressive as last year's Valentine's Day spectacular.

It appeared as if Legrand and the producers were too conscious about not doing a repeat performance of last year only with a different vocalist, so they dropped several expected numbers from the repertoire.

Since last year's concert was the first time for the French artist to perform in Manila, he packed it with all his well-loved compositions, while Ledesma didn't allow this special opportunity to pass without making her own mark.

Ledesma was at her element, confidently and elegantly striding around the stage, claiming the songs as if they were her own. Theirs was truly a collaboration between two acclaimed artists.

Wonderful duets

Ledesma handled spiels, helped engage the audience, and did wonderful duets with Legrand. You genuinely felt that it was a joint concert.

Despite the show's billing, "Songbird Sings Legrand" was more focused on Legrand. In fact, Velasquez didn't show up until the second act. (The concert had a 15-minute intermission.)

The first act was just Legrand and the San Miguel Orchestra in an almost classical setting. The centerpiece was a rather lengthy "overture" with various movements based on the Legrand classic, "I Will Wait for You" (from the musical "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg").

Despite the lush arrangement, particularly for the string section, led by violinist Joseph Esmilla, not a few people were fighting hard from dozing off during this particular number as they were probably not expecting to hear this at a pop concert.

The other instrumentals were more jazz-inspired including a rearrangement of "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?" and an almost jazz big band rendition of "Summer Me, Winter Me."

Velasquez appeared in the second act in a white ballgown by designer Rajo Laurel with the back cut low. Her first few numbers were sung in French and she hardly talked to the audience.

Her first faintly familiar song was "On My Way to You," a cut from Barbra Streisand's "Till I Loved You" album, but then she did "Something New in My Life" (originally recorded by Stephen Bishop for the "Mickey and Maude" soundtrack) and "Happy" (one of the early solo recordings by Michael Jackson).

Two headliners

There was also a duet of "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life" from the two headliners, and a medley of songs from the Streisand flick, "Yentl."

Legrand also accompanied Velasquez for a quiet version of her signature hit, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," which had the singer fawning over the honor.

There was a visible strain in Velasquez' voice that night. Her lines weren't as graceful, there was a noticeable nasal quality when she's not belting, her ending notes weren't as effortlessly sustained.

On certain numbers, she appeared to be going for a more Broadway-style of singing with clear head tones but it was obvious that she was working hard at it. Perhaps she was feeling fatigued given that this was already her third night and she still had to appear at her noontime show "SOP" earlier that day on GMA 7. But a friend who saw the opening night performance on Valentine's Day also noticed that Velasquez was having difficulties even then.

Velasquez had done Legrand medleys in her previous shows like at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, and these normally would be showstoppers. But even during "A Piece of Sky" from "Yentl," which she can do on demand, her voice wasn't as thrilling. However, she outdid herself, I believe, in "The Way He Makes Me Feel," which she performed with all the necessary emotions and a subtle dramatic styling -- a truly moving moment.

Staccato delivery

Legrand rearranged "A Piece of Sky" as a duet with a French martial beat. Yet, even with his staccato delivery, the number, I felt, lacked the fluid sweep conjured up in the movie.

When they rendered "Papa, Watch Me Fly," it just didn't soar. Unfortunate since this was the final number of the whole show.

Naturally, the crowd shouted for more, and the duo returned and reprised exactly that number. I think the audience was dumbfounded by this decision such that when Legrand and Velasquez finished, the crowd was rather tentative with their response.

The star-studded audience that night included the likes of Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, Lani Misalucha, Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabella, Christopher de Leon and mom Lilia Dizon, Ruffa Mae Quinto with Christian Vasquez, and even broadcasters Mel Tiangco, Jessica Soho and TJ Manotoc.

As is, "Songbird Sings Legrand" is still a well-produced, well-performed show (the orchestra was excellent), clearly a cut above the usual concerts we have here. But there were just too many opportunities that have been missed.

Velasquez' powerful voice could have been better utilized and she should have been given the chance to sing the real Legrand classics. With all due respect to Legrand and the producers, allowing Velasquez more stage time would not necessarily take out the focus away from the composer. In fact, the songs, I believe, would be better served. The audience for sure wouldn't mind hearing both instrumental and vocal performances of the same songs.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S GREATEST ADVENTURE 'TREASURE ISLAND' AS IT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE
TREASURE PLANET
© Disney Enterprises, Inc.
Opens FEBRUARY 25 in your favorite cinemas
UR 105 ULTIMATE RADIO
Buena Vista International
SM CITY
ALASKA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
Dimetapp
Bonakid
NEW! Vaseline Shampoo
NIVEA
KFC
CEBU DAILY NEWS An Affiliate of the Philippine Daily Inquirer
CEBU CITY Marriott HOTEL
CEBU FITNESS CENTRE
IPI INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
HOLIDAY PLAZA HOTEL
whatsincebu.com
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage

TV soap opera runs out of suds

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Friday, Feb. 14, we went home after a very full day, completely exhausted. But we forced ourselves to stay awake because we wanted to see the final episode of the TV soap, "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka," starring **Judy Ann Santos** and **Piolo Pascual.**

After all, the telenovela has been running for about a year and a half, so its denouement should be of some special interest. So with figurative toothpicks propping up our eyelids, we resolutely waited for the expectedly dramatic finale to unspool.

When the episode finally started, however, there were mostly small, intimate scenes on view, and our interest quickly waned. The most dramatic moment came when Judy Ann's character was in a coma and Piolo pleaded with her to fight for her life and regain consciousness.

Unfortunately, the moment stretched into a long, then overlong, and finally much too long dramatic monologue or "aria" that required Piolo to plead, pray, express his love and yearning, remind Judy Ann of their child who needed her, shed copious tears—the full (water)works.

Now, we know that Piolo is supposed to be a good, sensitive actor, but he couldn't save the trying-hard scene. In fact, he made it worse by pushing the pathos and bathos quotients too much. So much for "outstanding" acting...

Luckily for Judy Ann, she was supposed to be in a coma, so she couldn't overact, even if she wanted to. So, she just slept prettily away as Piolo did his tragically thespic thing.

Only at the end of his "aria" did she "miraculously" wake-up and wanly smile up at him to let him and everyone else know that she had survived the soap's final (thank goodness) crisis.

There was an epilogue set a year later, during which some of the soap's principal characters tidily wrapped up their participation in the long-running drama series but there was no more drama to be had there.

And so, at last, and rather anticlimactically, "Sa Puso Ko, Iinagtan Ka" finally ended—not a minute too soon.

True Faith on tour

THE POWER pop band, True Faith, performs at Quattro Resto on Timog Avenue on Feb. 27.

The band's mall tour will take it to SM Bacoor on March 1, SM Bicutan on March 2, SM Iloilo on March 8, SM Sucat on March 9, SM Davao on March 15, SM Cagayan de Oro on March 16, and SM Cebu on March 22. All shows start at 4 p.m.

Welcome to the Elite Lifestyle!
PREMIUM
WARSTEINER®
GERMAN BEER
Your Status Symbol
DALE STARR ENTERPRISES
#44 Sgt. Esguerra Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 924-1794 / 924-1654 / 924-1327 / 415-6644 / 924-1636
Cellphone# 0917-5290123 Pager: 1411-126297 Fax: 924-1646
E-mail: d-starr@compass.com.ph Web: www.dalestarr.com
Welcome Dealership, Sales Executives & Freelance Agents Nationwide

Something funny . . .

From page A32

preparing for this musical comedy," confesses Jon. "For one thing, it deviates from the usual comedy acts and concerts. I have to capture the nuances of people who forget about themselves when they are giddily in love. Then, I have to integrate their behaviors into the characters I play."

But the humor is only one-third of the the fun. The show also features popular music, performed by some of the country's finest talents.

"Something Stupid... Called Love" combines the elements of a stand-up comedy, a play and a concert -- all done in good taste and with full production values.

Director Marasigan describes the entire show as a tableau of amusing characters and situations. "When you're in love, you do all sorts of things you never imagine yourself doing in a normal situation. This performance is one opportunity for loving couples to take time out from their busy schedules and really have fun."

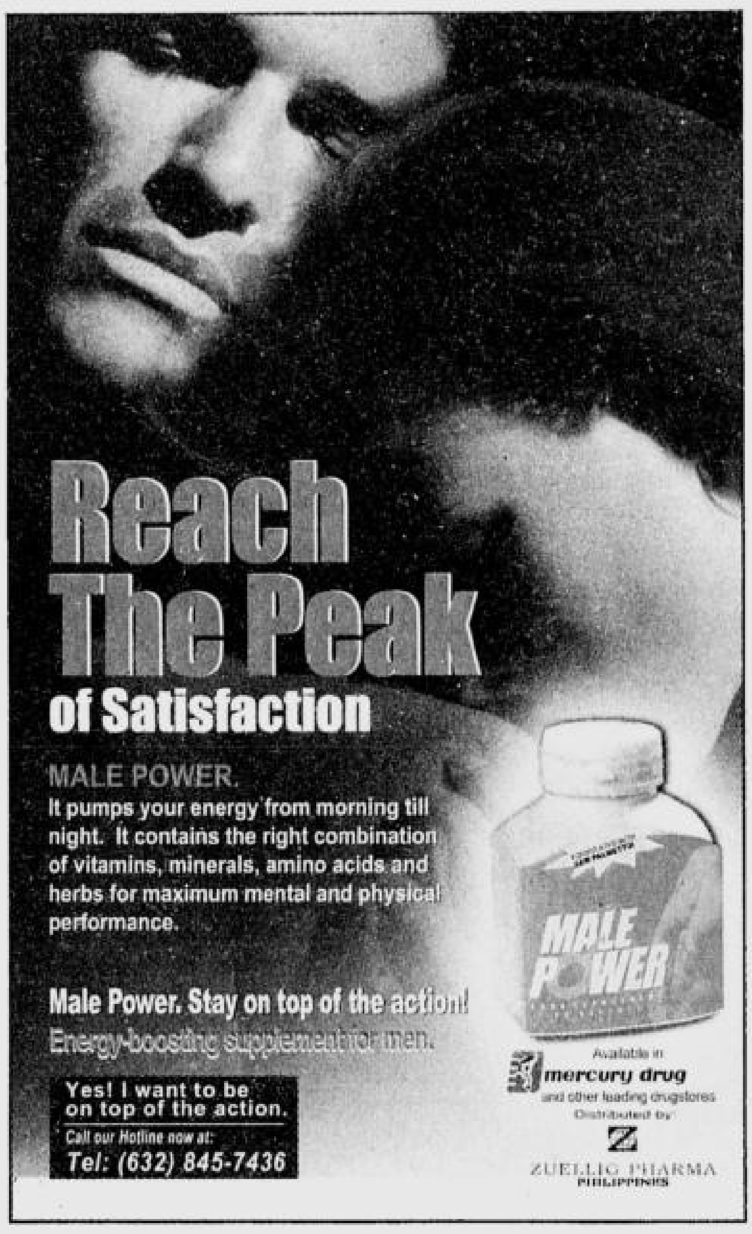
To punctuate the humor, music is incorporated into each scene: love songs, love themes from blockbuster movies, popular OPM love songs. The selections, Marasigan explains, range from the truly serious to the truly hilarious: songs popularized by Josh Groban, Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra, Dulce and even April Boy Regino.

"One of the things to look forward to in this show is the performance of the cast," adds Marasigan. "Every one of them will show his or her prowess in portraying offbeat roles, which they have never done before."

While Jon and RJ are familiar names in the theater circuit, Dessa, Kyla and The Company are ready to spring surprises. They will be singing songs that are not usually found in their repertoire, and they will actually be part of the comedy.

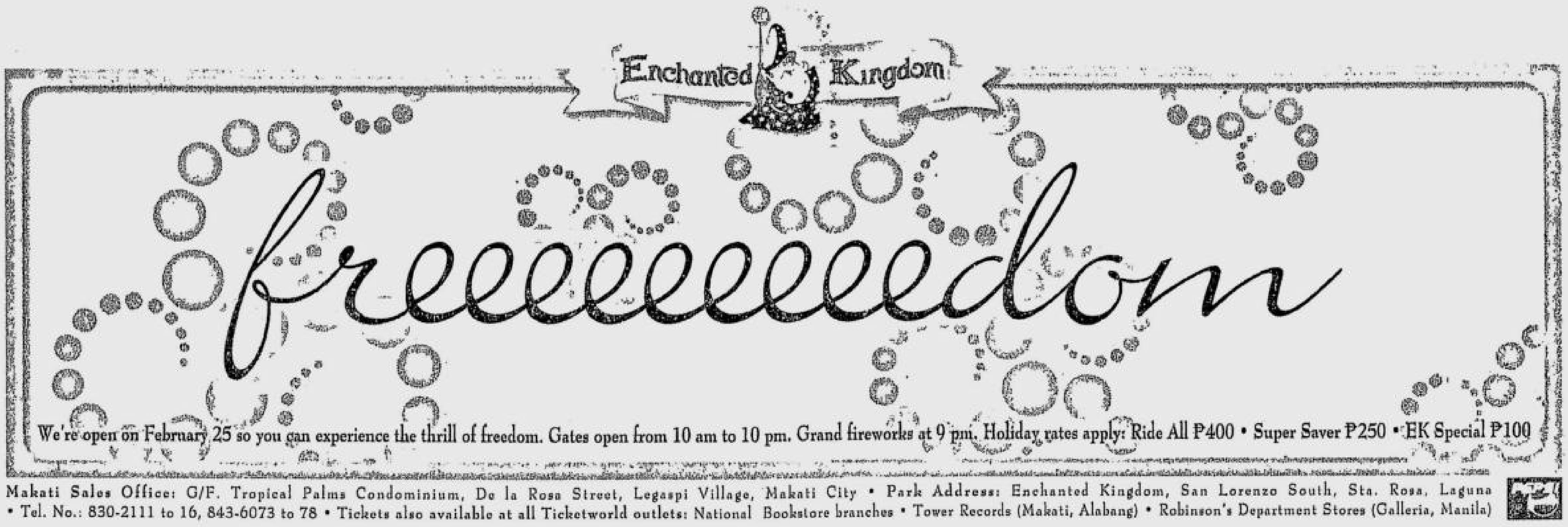
"Something Stupid... Called Love" will be on stage at the CPP. It is presented in cooperation with Montre, Your Life Your Time Your Style, No Curfew Take Your Time, Teazann International, Magic 89.9, K-Lite 103.5, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.1, and Citylite 88.3.

Tickets are available at CCP Marketing, 832-3681, 832-3878, 832-1125 local 1801, 1806 or 1409; Boxo Office and Ticketworld, 891-5610, 891-5743; and National Bookstore and Tower Records.

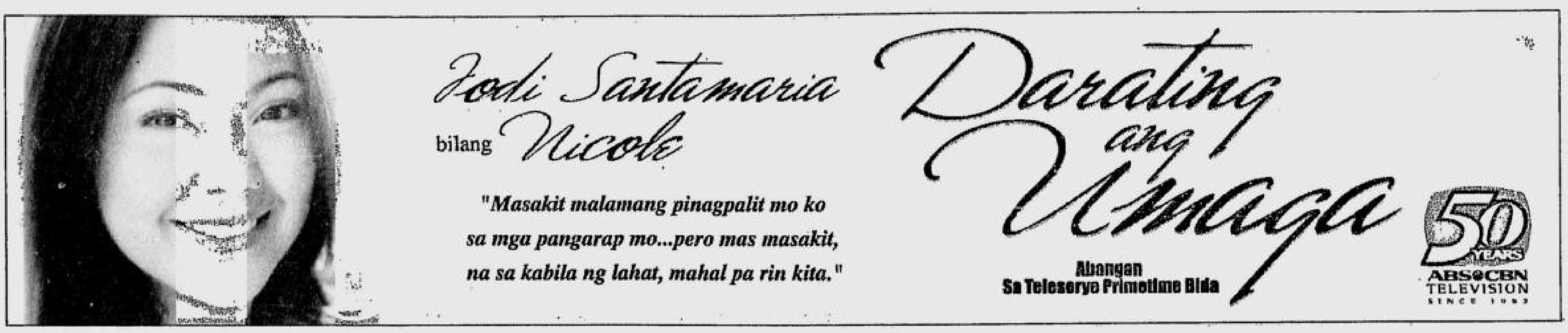


Reach The Peak of Satisfaction
MALE POWER.
It pumps your energy from morning till night. It contains the right combination of vitamins, minerals, amino acids and herbs for maximum mental and physical performance.
Male Power. Stay on top of the action!
Energy-boosting supplement for men.
Yes! I want to be on top of the action.
Call our Hotline now at:
Tel: (632) 845-7436
Available in mercury drug and other leading drugstores
Distributed by:
ZUELLIG PHARMA PHILIPPINES

ETO NA ANG INYONG BAGONG KA-PAMILYA SA TANGHALIAN!
Masayang Tanghali Bayan
Patok na MAGIC 3
RANDY SANTIAGO, JOHN ESTRADA at WILLE REVILLAME
Kwelang TIRIRITS
DENNIS PADILLA, BAYANI AGBAYANI at AI-AI DELAS ALAS
Beautiful BABES
AUBREY MILES, at MICKEY FERRIOLS
Kasama sina CINDY KURLETO, Jaboom twins--- JAJA and BOOMBOOM, TADO at BENTONG
One HUNK a day keeps the blues away
MGA PAKULONG SIGURADONG AABANGAN...
SUPER JACK & POY AT URONG SULONG!
MADALING MANALO, MALAKI PA ANG PAPREMYO!
ANG SAYA DIBA?
LUNES hanggang SABADO • 12 NN
Sabayang mapapanood sa ABS-CBN at Studio 23
50 YEARS
ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953



Enchanted Kingdom
freeeeeeeedom
We're open on February 25 so you can experience the thrill of freedom. Gates open from 10 am to 10 pm. Grand fireworks at 9 pm. Holiday rates apply: Ride All ₱400 • Super Saver ₱250 • EK Special ₱100
Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 16, 843-6073 to 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila)



Jodi Santamaria
bilang Nicole
"Masakit malamang pinagpalit mo ko sa mga pangarap mo...pero mas masakit, na sa kabila ng lahat, mahal pa rin kita."
Darating ang Umaga
Abangan
Sa Teleserye Primetime Bida
50 YEARS
ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS	1 DAREDEVIL	1 SWEPT AWAY (EXCLUSIVE) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	THX 1 GUARANTEED SEATS DAREDEVIL 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	THX 1 DAREDEVIL
2 HERO	2 DAREDEVIL	2 DAREDEVIL 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	THX 2 GUARANTEED SEATS DAREDEVIL 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25	2 DAREDEVIL
3 DAREDEVIL	THX 3 GUARANTEED SEATS DAREDEVIL 11:10, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb 28 & Mar. 1	3 GUARANTEED SEATS SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30	3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 DAREDEVIL	4 ABANDON		4 GUARANTEED SEATS HERO 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	4 ABANDON
	5 THE EYE		5 GUARANTEED SEATS TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35	5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
	6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE			
	7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ABANDON
2 (SDDS) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS) DARE DEVIL
4 GOLD (DTS ES) TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THEY
6 GOLD (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) DAREDEVIL
8 MAGNIFICO
9 THE EYE
10 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2 TOMAGANS
3 (DTS) TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4
5 BETTER THAN SEX
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 . 833.3274
1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 BUKANG BIBIG

star mall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AB NORMAL
3 TOMAGANS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DAREDEVIL
5 AMAZON

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 AB NORMAL
2 SUKDULAN
3 DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6 AMAZON

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AB NORMAL

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13
DAREDEVIL

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HERO
2 I SPY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 TOMAGANS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HERO
2 TOMAGANS
3 SHIRLEY
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 AMAZON
6 AB NORMAL
7 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
8 (SDDS) ABANDON
9 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 AB NORMAL
2 SUKDULAN
3 TOMAGANS
4 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
5 AMAZON
6 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
8 MAGNIFICO
9 THEY

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 TOMAGANS
2 (SDDS) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
5 AB NORMAL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AMAZON
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 DAREDEVIL

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 TOMAGANS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TOMAGANS
Lords TOMAGANS
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 BUKANG BIBIG
4 TOMAGANS
5 AMZON

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 AB NORMAL
2 ABANDON
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
5 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 ABANDON

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 TOMAGUNS
2 DAREDEVIL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926, 534-2185
1 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 (DTS) THEY
3 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
4 HERO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THEY
2 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 HERO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPECIAL SCREENING
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 AB NORMAL
2 I SPY
3 (DOLBY) THEY
4 (DTS) FEMME FATALE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) THEY
2 (DTS) I SPY
3 AB NORMAL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) BUKANG BIBIG
4 TOMAGANS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 FEMME FATALE
5 BETTER THAN SEX

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 SUKDULAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 DAREDEVIL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 AB NORMAL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BETTER THAN SEX
2 HERO
3 AB NORMAL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 AB NORMAL
2 I SPY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS ES) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 FEMME FATALE

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
1 MAGNIFICO
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN SOCCER
4 (DTS) DAREDEVIL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Walt Disney
TREASURE PLANET
DISCOVER THE TREASURE
ON FEBRUARY 26

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 AMAZON
2 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THEY
5 DAREDEVIL
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 LEGEND OF TOMAGAN
8 MAGNIFICO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 ABANDON
3 DAREDEVIL
4 AMAZON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 DAREDEVIL
8 THEY
9 THE EYE
10 MAGNIFICO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
2 HERO
3 MAGNIFICO
4 DAREDEVIL
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 DAREDEVIL
8 AMAZON
9 DAREDEVIL
10 THEY
11 SUKDULAN
12 LEGEND OF TOMAGAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 DAREDEVIL
2 THE EYE
3 ABANDON
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6 DAREDEVIL
7 AMAZON
8 HERO
9 DAREDEVIL
10 THEY
11 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
12 MAGNIFICO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 DAREDEVIL
2 THEY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THE EYE
5 ABANDON
6 EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
7 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8 MAGNIFICO
9 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
10 DAREDEVIL
11 AMAZON
12 AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 THEY
2 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3 AMAZON
4 AB NORMAL
5 ABANDON
6 DAREDEVIL
7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8 DAREDEVIL

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 ABANDON
2 THEY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THE EYE
5 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
6 DAREDEVIL
7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8 DAREDEVIL
9 MAGNIFICO
10 AMAZON

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 DAREDEVIL
2 BELOW
3 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4 BETTER THAN SEX
5 MAGNIFICO
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 I SPY
8 DAREDEVIL

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
2 CLOSED
3 DAREDEVIL
4 BELOW
5 I SPY
6 DAREDEVIL
7 CLOSED
8 MAGNIFICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 DAREDEVIL
2 DAREDEVIL
3 FEMME FATALE
4 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
5 MAGNIFICO
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 MAGNIFICO
2 DAREDEVIL
3 DAREDEVIL
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 LEGEND OF TOMAGAN
4 AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 DAREDEVIL
2 BALAT SIBUYAS
3 THEY
4 MAGNIFICO
5 I SPY
6 DAREDEVIL

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 DAREDEVIL

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 DAREDEVIL
2 MAGNIFICO
3 I SPY
4 DAREDEVIL

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976
1 DAREDEVIL
12:40 FS/1:10 MF/3:30/5:50/8:10/10:00 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:20 END
2 DAREDEVIL
11:00 MF/11:20/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279
THX DAREDEVIL 10:15 MF, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 LMF
2 DAREDEVIL
3 ABANDON
4 AMAZON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
8 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
9 HERO
10 THEY
MATINEE PRICE : P90 THX cinema P75 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 THE EYE
4 ABANDON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 AMAZON
7 DAREDEVIL

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THEY
2 DAREDEVIL
3 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4 HERO
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6 DAREDEVIL
7 TOMAGANS
8 AMAZON

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 DAREDEVIL
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 TOMAGANS
5 HERO
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 THEY
8 AMAZON

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575
1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 AMAZON

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961- 5318 / 5270
1 DAREDEVIL
2 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3 FEMME FATALE
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
6 DAREDEVIL

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 AMAZON
4 DAREDEVIL
5 TOMAGANS
6 MAGNIFICO

Sta. Rosa Laguna 049-8370907
1 DAREDEVIL
2 MAGNIFICO
3 SHAGNHAI KNGIHTS
4 TRY SEVENTEEN
5 THEY

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 DAREDEVIL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 THEY
4 I SPY
5 BETTER THAN SEX
6 AB NORMAL

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 DAREDEVIL
2 I SPY
3 MAGNIFICO
4 BELOW
5 8 MILE
6 DAREDEVIL

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Amy Perez . . .

From page A28

were allowed to go on leave from 'MTB' before was two weeks, that's why I couldn't give way to the offers to perform abroad.

"I can fix my computer at home, cook for my son and spend more time with him. I can work for other networks or go on vacation. My dream is to take Adi to Disneyland. I also want to take my parents to Europe."

Even if she works for rival network GMA 7 in the future, Amy says she has the blessings of ABS-CBN big bosses Charo Santos and Gabby Lopez.

"I don't want to burn bridges," Amy points out. "If at all, one thing I learned after 'MTB' is that nothing is permanent in life. The moment you open your eyes in the morning, there are many changes that can happen.

"I didn't aspire to become a superstar or a megastar in this business. I just want people to remember me as someone who made them happy everyday at noon. With my new show, 'Buhay Milyonaryo,' I want the audience to remember me as someone who became part of their success."

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL
TM and © 2003 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
© 2003 Fox and Monarchy Enterprises S.a.r.l.

AYALA CINEMAS

HOT TREATS AT GREENBELT 3

For every purchase of one (1) Daredevil ticket at Greenbelt 3 entitles the customer to the following treats:

1. Up to 30% OFF on selected food items at all outlets.

Shinkanzen Gloria Maris Work Shop Mama Nito's Kitchen Circo Steak & Seafood Grill Ceya Tender Bob's Express Thai BBQ Andale Sarabel Bellini's Toast Cheesecake etc Taqueria Chilanga Bar Ciao Sabrett Malahan I Love Cakes by Claudette's Candy Corner Pozzo Gelato

2. FREE two (2) non-redemption game passes at TIMEZONE Greenbelt 3. Limited use of one pass per person per day only.

NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

PER DTI NCR Permit No. AI-104, Series of 2003

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ABANDON P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS GP 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	DAREDEVIL P13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
HERO P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	TWO WEEKS NOTICE P13 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	DAREDEVIL P13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented! DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
DAREDEVIL
11:32, 2:00, 4:45
7:10, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
11:30 , 2:10 , 4:45 ,
7:20 , 10:00
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM FEB 28, 2003 "MULA SA PUSOD (Pababa)" 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	AB NORMAL
Ali 2	AMAZON
Ali 3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Ali 4	DAREDEVIL
Ali 5	DAREDEVIL
Ali 6	THEY
Ali 7	ABANDON
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	TOMAGAN
Farmers 2	DAREDEVIL
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 28	MARTIN & POPS CONCERT
MARCH 1	JOLINA MANIA CONCERT
MARCH 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 25	10 AM
FEB 26	10 AM
FEB 27	3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAPAG BUMAYO PALAY / UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
ODEON	DAREDEVIL
ODEON-2	MALDITA / STRIP SHOW
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HALLOWEEN / ONE WRONG TURN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3,	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TOMAGAN
CORONET B	CHANGING LANES / THE WILD SIDE
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	DAREDEVIL
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	AB NORMAL
B	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-2	DAREDEVIL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TOMAGAN
CINEMA-2	SUKDULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HERO
CINEMA-6	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-7	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
CINEMA-8	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DEREDEVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DAREDEVIL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-12	ABANDON
CINEMA-14	AMAZON
CINEMA-15	THEY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

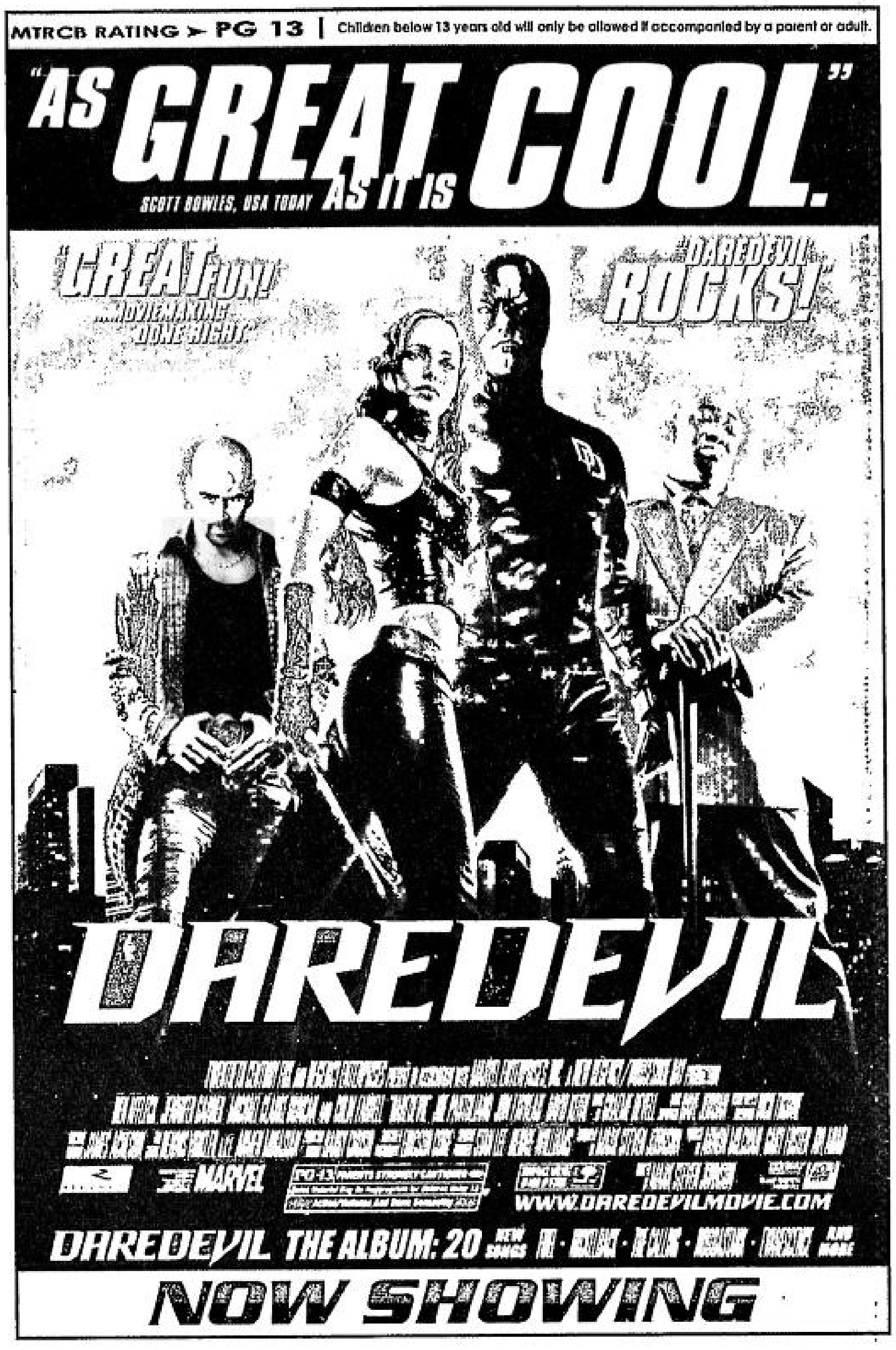
SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL
DWTM PREMIERE
on February 24, 2003
7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular Showing on March 5, 2003
at the SM CINEMAS

THE SEQUEL TO THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE "RING" IS COMING...SOON!
Ring 2
"SCARY AS HELL"
Released thru Solar Films

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 APPROVE WITHOUT CUT

THEY TRY TO BRING HIM DOWN, BUT THE MAN HAS A BIG HEART FOR THE OPPRESSED AND VICTIMS OF INJUSTICE. AGAINST ALL ODDS, HE FACES THE FORCES OF EVIL BECAUSE, HE IS...
The Legend ...

WITH SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
EDDIE GARCIA
CHIN CHIN GUTIERREZ . JOHN REGALA
EVANGELINE PASCUAL / TONY FERRER / KIER LEGASPI / PAQUITO DIAZ / RAMON ZAMORA / JOHNNY VICAR / ROMY DIAZ / JACK BERNAL / CHARLIE DAVAO / LITO LEGASPI
INTRODUCING ERICKA MONTECARLO
AND
JESTONI ALARCON AS "TOMAGAN"
TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY OF GEN. ROMEO B. MAGANTO
STARRING
ERNIE ZARATE CAMMY VIRAY RONA REYES ESTELLA GARCIA ATOY CO DEXTER DORIA ADOR MAWANAY SARAH BALABAGAN
CHARLIE SY
DIRECTED BY:
TONY BERNAL
A Jordan FILMS, INC. PRESENTATION
For booking pls. contact Mr. Boy Fernandez / Erning de Guzman Tel. No.: 314-8096 / 703-1177 / 733-8611



MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"AS GREAT AS IT IS COOL."
SCOTT BOWLES, USA TODAY
"GREAT FUN! ...MOVIEMAKING DONE RIGHT."
"DAREDEVIL ROCKS!"
DAREDEVIL
WWW.DAREDEVILMOVIE.COM
DAREDEVIL THE ALBUM: 20 NEW SONGS
NOW SHOWING

EXPERIENCE THE FAMILY MOVIE EVENT THAT'S BEING CALLED:
'Star Wars' meets 'Treasure Island.'
-Andrea Jackson, WB-TV/Dayton, Ohio

"A truly wonderful tale combined with stunning animation."
-Paul Clinton, CNN

"Set your course for 'Treasure Planet' and hang on for the adventure of your life!"
-Jeffrey K. Howard, ABC NEWS/Las Vegas

"Disney has not only updated a classic...but given it a futuristic twist that will endure for generations to come!"
Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
TREASURE PLANET
treasureplanet.com
FEATURING THE HIT SINGLE "I'M STILL HERE" BY JOHN RZEZNIK OF THE GOO GOO DOLLS.
©DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
OPENS TOMORROW
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS FEB. 26 EXCLUSIVELY AT
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
THE GURU
HEATHER GRAHAM MARISA TOMEI
JIMI MISTRY

"Stirs together Bollywood and Hollywood, satire and romance; to create an appealing masala dish of a movie."
– Robert K. Elder, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Mistry and co-star Heather Graham lend a fetching naiveté to their characters."
– Carla Meyer, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"THE GURU will leave you grinning from ear to ear."
– Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
NOKIA INQUIRER
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

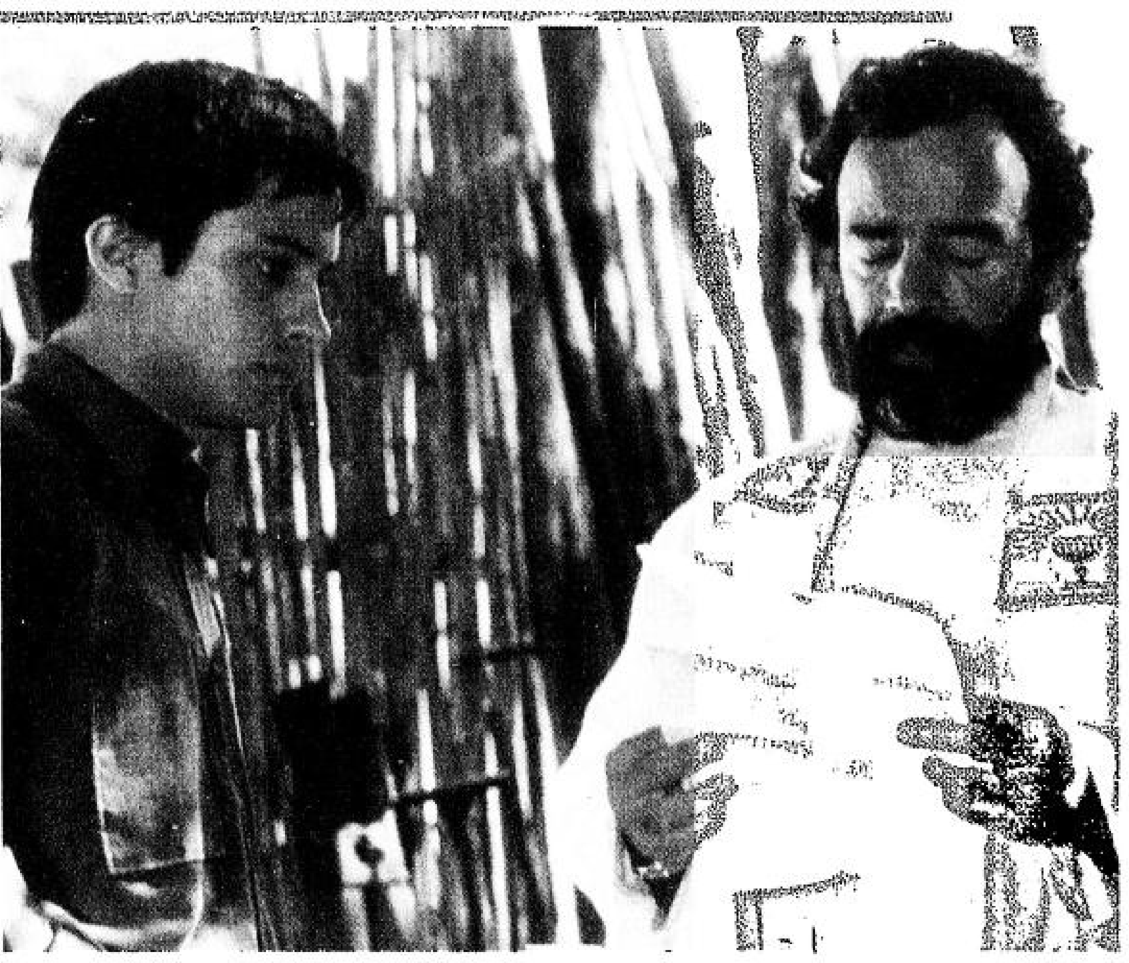
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Priests are people, too



MASS APPEAL. Gael Garcia Bernal portrays the title character as a dignified jerk, with Sancho Gracia as the senior priest (right).

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

SCANDALS are timeless and never forgotten, especially when they happen in institutions like religious organizations.

"El Crimen del Padre Amaro" ("The Crime of Padre Amaro"), one of the foreign films that recently premiered in the 2003 "Pelikula at Lipunan" film festival, is based on a novel written by Jose Maria Eca de Queiroz in 1875. This Mexican film's story may well have been written just a year ago, at the height of the global controversies around Catholic priests found involved in conspiracies to cover up sex cases. But regardless of the mire and muck of such true-to-life horror stories, "El Crimen del Padre Amaro" presents a non-judgmental view while deconstructing the humanity of men of the cloth.

Newly ordained priest Padre Amaro (Gael Garcia Bernal), naïve and inexperienced in the challenges of the real world, arrives in the sleepy provincial town of Los Reyes. The parish's senior priest, Padre Benito (Sancho Gracia), is being questioned for being friendly with a notorious drug lord and for accepting his donations for the poor (or so he tries to justify his friendliness). Amaro also discovers that Benito is having an intimate relationship with restaurant owner Sanjuanera (Angelica Aragon).

Sanjuanera's young daughter Amelia (Ana Claudia Talancon), a catechism teacher, obviously attracted to the dashing young Padre Amaro, hits on him when the slimmest opportunity comes.

Amaro entertains thoughts of consummating his sexual fondness for Amelia, and surely enough, they do the deed (many times) in a secret love nest.

This forbidden union continues with the help of elaborate lies, until both of them are faced with something they have not foreseen: impending parenthood.

By now, Amaro has become a much different man from when he first came to the somber town. His own interpretation of the priestly vow of chastity and his determination to keep his job amidst his oft-tumultuous interactions with various figures of society and authority make him very human and fallible. And it is this imperfection that makes him such an absorbing conundrum.

Desperate measures

The story is littered with other characters that affect Amaro's life in varying degrees. Ruben is a young journalist keen on exposing the priests' discrepancies. Dionisia is a raving fanatic who performs her own exorcisms, and who knows the dirty secrets of the town. Getsemani is a mentally ill, bed-ridden young woman whom her own father considers malevolently possessed.

Padre Natalio is the staunchest embodiment of practising what he preaches, as he lives and serves the spiritual needs of a guerilla community in the wilderness, even when confronted with the threat of excommunication.

Amaro, the smart and devious man that he is, resorts to everything that would ensure his survival as a priest, blackmail being the least of his desperate measures. The word "crime" in the title can pertain to the many trust issues that he violates, but it can also refer to the one, climactic offense that he commits that's a result of this chain of betrayal.

It's compelling enough to beg the question: What would you do if you were in his place? The answers will vary, but for this neo-priest, his fragilities are just there. He'll get away with anything and everything, if and when he can.

The story often tends to overpower the film's technical aspects. The photography is done with simple clarity. Much of the movie draws its power from Vicente Lenero's screenplay/adaptation, as well as from the performances of Bernal et al, and Carlos Carrera's caustic direction. "El Criimen" was recently nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign language film category.

It echoes the controversial sentiments of the 1996 Linus Roach vehicle "Priest," by Antonia Byrd, in its examination of human frailty and the unchanging attitudes of followers of religious factions regarding sex and spirituality. "El Crimen," however, is released here without cuts.

Shattered beliefs

Hypocrisy and duality are given emphasis in "El Crimen," as some of the priests portrayed firmly believe that they're being guided by their inner moral compasses and that they're not doing anything wrong. The stubbornness of these influential "holy" men are contrasted by characters who don't believe in their traditions and who are branded as communists by the so-called faithful.

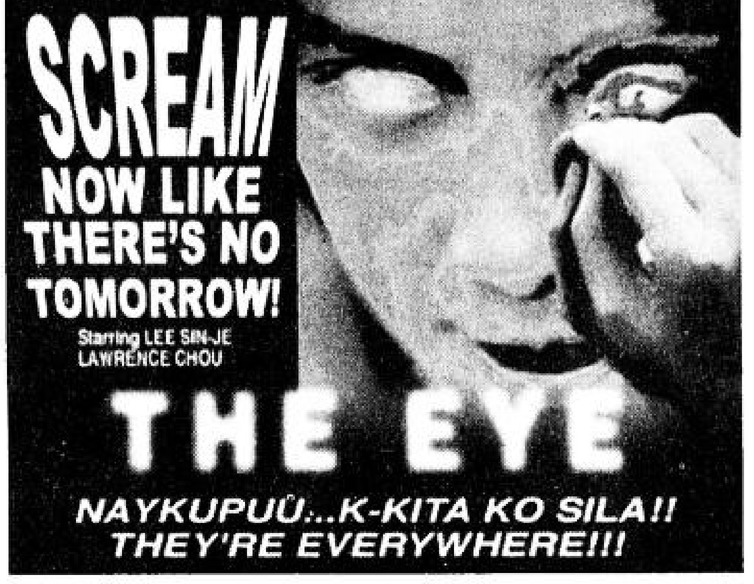
The movie also shows examples of members of the flock whose faith is askew, like Amelia, who confesses to Amaro that she sometimes thinks of Jesus in a sensual way while she bathes. Scenes like these offer some of the lighter moments even as they shatter conventional thinking and slam the viewer with moments that could've been gleaned from strange reality.

Bernal (who resembles a male Julia Roberts) takes the Amaro character and just boldly treads on everyone with it. His boyish appearance belies an extinguished innocence that makes Amaro such a dignified jerk. Bernal previously appeared in acclaimed faves "Amores Perros" and "Y Tu Mama Tambien." He manages to make us believe that a person can devote himself to selfless service and be extremely selfish at the same time.

It's a story that isn't unheard of, but there's a starkness to it that manages to poke into rarely visited territories. It deserves to be told, as it captures the all too real arbitrariness of individuals and groups interested only in self-preservation.

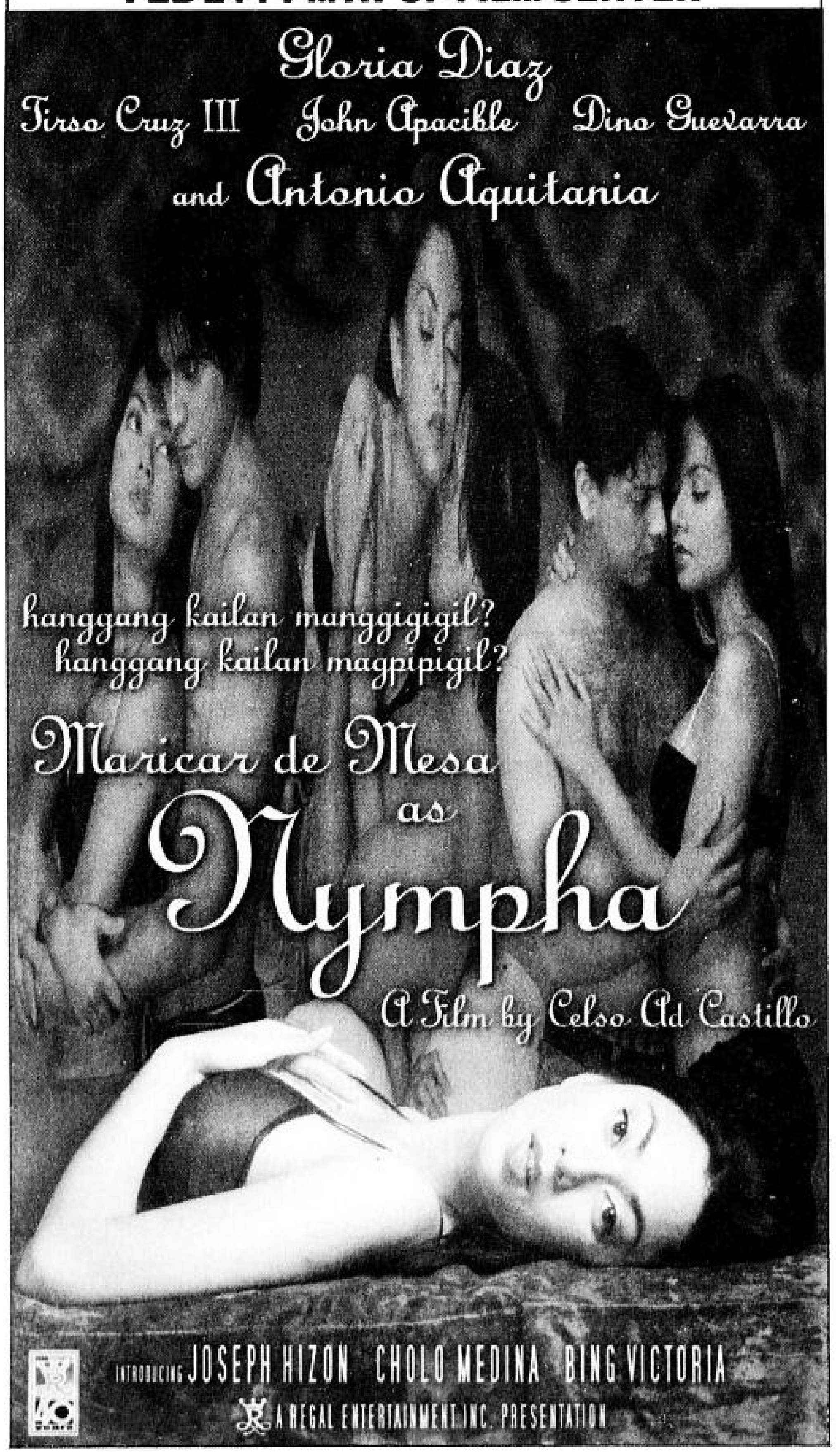
It shows how everyone can be occasional wolves in sheep's clothing, and it reminds us of a very important (but often ignored) truth: Priests may have extraordinary duties, but they're regular people too.

NOW ON ITS 3RD HIT WEEK!
Exclusively at SM MANILA, SM MEGAMALL, SM NORTH, SM SOUTHMALL
GLORIETTA, GALLERIA, ROBINSON ERMITA, FESTIVAL
MTRCB RATING PG 13 Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 yrs old to watch this movie because of the intensity of the horror & visual content



SCREAM NOW LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
Starring LEE SIN-JE
LAWRENCE CHOU
THE EYE
NAYKUPUŨ...K-KITA KO SILA!!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!!!

OPENS TOMORROW
SNEAK PREVIEW TOMORROW,
FEB 24 7 PM AT UP FILM CENTER

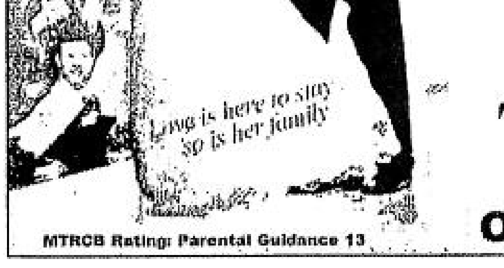


Gloria Diaz
Tirso Cruz III John Apacible Dino Guevarra
and Antonio Aquitania
hanggang kailan manggigigil?
hanggang kailan magpipigil?
Maricar de Mesa as
Nympha
A Film by Celso Ad Castillo
introducing JOSEPH HIZON CHOLO MEDINA BING VICTORIA
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION

HUMOR AND HARMONY. "Something Stupid" with The Company, Jon Santos, Kyla, RJ Rosales and Dessa.

Admit it. It's you who needs a tune-up.
Brush up on everything from car care tips to automotive launches and innovations.
That's you and a million others reading the PDI, on and off the road.
MOTORING
Thursdays
Special SECTIONS INQUIRER

Laugh out loud & fall in love when
America's No. 1 Romantic Comedy Returns ONLY at
GREENBELT 1
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
" Two Thumbs up!"
Elbert & Roeper
" One party you shouldn't miss"
George Permacelho, KABC-TV
" Heartfelt & Hilarious!"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
Opens Feb. 26, 2003
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13



Love is here to stay
so is her family

Something funny, something musical

WEEKS after Valentine's Day and its concerts, romance still fills the air. Only this time, it's mixed with laughter.

On Feb. 28 and March 1, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Rado of Switzerland and Mossimo present "Something Stupid ... Called Love," which is described as "a new kind of comedy-musical reminiscent of the shows being staged on Broadway today."

"Something Stupid... Called Love" features Kyla, Dessa, The Company, RJ Rosales and Jon Santos. The musical is written by Joel Mercado and is directed by Dennis Marasigan. Toti Fuentes is the musical director.

The show, through character sketches, pokes fun at the crazy things people do for love.

"It was difficult

TITLE/A29

hp invent Compaq Evo N610c
ultimate balance of mobility and technology
Call us today for more info
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

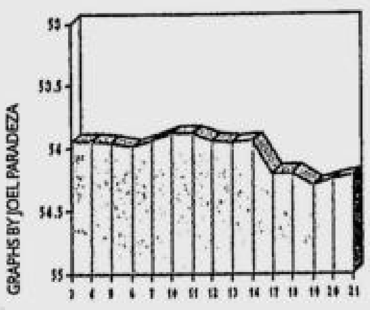
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

EIKI
MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR
Made in Japan
A wide range of models to meet your every need
AV SALES & RENTALS
DESIGN
SYSTEM INTEGRATION
The Brain Computer Corporation
Your One Stop Audiovisual Shop!
Tel Nos.: 722-8843/ 722-8845/727-9803/ 721-2466
721-2451 E-Mail: brain@mozcom.com

Businessmen see bleak first quarter

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P54.225 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb.21, 2003

¥118.34 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 21, 2003

GOLD: $353.50-354.00

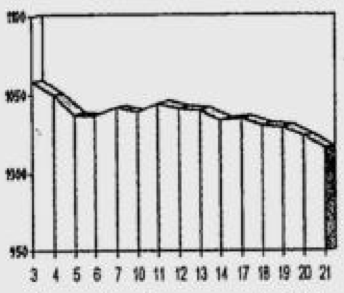
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb.21, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Trading seen to remain slow

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

FEBRUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE BEARS are seen to continue ruling over local stocks this week as concerns over renewed bombings in Mindanao aggravate jitters caused by the tension in the Middle East and the impending sanctions from Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on money laundering.

As the market remains a few points above the 1,000 mark, it is expected to test the lows of 980—the lowest since the unification of the Makati and Manila exchanges—which was last hit on Oct. 25, 2001 in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Westlink Global Equities analyst James Lago said the market was taking a lot of beating while trying to keep itself above the 1,000 psychological support. He said the sentiment was so weak as reflected by the thin value turnover, that barely exceeded the P100-million level of daily trade.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed another 7.53 points last week to close at 1,015.70.

BPI Securities said the market took a decisively negative turn last week due to the onslaught of bad news, which likewise caused the weakening of the peso and the rising of interest rates. The peso is still trading above the 54 level against the US dollar.

Last week, the Bureau of Treasury rejected all bids for Treasury bills

TRADING/ B8

By Clarissa S. Batino

BEARISH sentiments prevailed in the latest quarterly business outlook survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as businessmen polled expected a weaker peso, higher interest rates and the continued increase in consumer prices in view of a looming US-Iraq war.

Respondents to the central bank survey, representing 294 companies, said they were worried that the Middle East conflict and the government's growing budget deficit would push local interest rates up, weaken the peso and drive consumer prices higher in the first quarter of the year.

"The respondents attributed the cautious business stance primarily to the increasing threat of war between the US-led coalition and Iraq and its impact on oil prices," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The quarterly survey, which was conducted in January, showed that businesses were maintaining a more positive outlook for the second quarter in anticipation of increased business activity during the summer break and the opening of classes in June.

The January survey showed a 65-percent response rate, better than the 45.2 percent in October last year. The companies polled were among the top 3,000 corporations in Metro Manila.

Using the so-called diffusion index, where negative results mean that the respondents' sentiments are deteriorating, the survey showed a dramatic decline in business outlook for the first quarter. The index dropped to a negative 3 percent from 16.2 percent in the previous quarter as shown in the survey done in October.

The last time the diffusion index hit a negative was in the third quarter of 2001 at the height of the hostage crisis in Mindanao, the volatility of the foreign exchange market, and the slowdown in the US and Japanese economies.

But the outlook index for the second quarter improved to 17.5 percent from 6.3 percent registered in the October poll.

"The respondents expect the economy to remain in the growth path, with the majority of the firms surveyed projecting higher business activity in the second quarter," noted the BSP chief.

The BSP said that all sectors of the economy registered a positive outlook for the second quarter although 74.7 percent of those surveyed indicated that they had no plan to expand soon. The employment index remained at negative 4.7 percent, reflecting the inability of companies to hire more workers.

The expansion and employment indices in the January poll were better than those in the previous survey where more than 81 percent of those polled had said they were not expanding and the employment index stood at negative 5.5 percent.

The confidence indicators showed mixed trends as the wholesale and retail trade sector index improved from negative 7 percent to only negative 0.8 percent while the industry index slid to 8 percent from 14.2 percent.

The confidence index for the services sector dropped to negative 5.1 percent from 8.3 percent while that for the construction sector hit a flat zero from 3.3 percent.

BUSINESSMEN/ B8

Bitter foes find a common enemy—and it's huge

By Abigail L. Ho

(First of two parts)

B-One

THEY may be stiff competitors here, but a common "bully" wanting to get one up on them has made the local telecommunications industry come up with a united stand: fight to the death.

As war brews between the United States and Iraq, another has erupted between US giant AT&T Corp. and the Philippines' major telecommunications industry players.

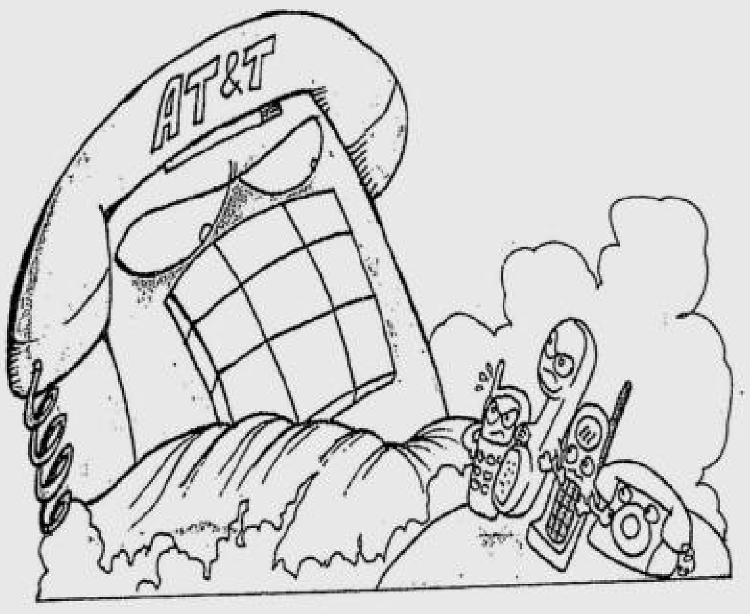
Obviously, the battle has nothing to do with oil but with something that can be deemed just as precious—communication lines.

In a country like the Philippines, communication is a necessity. All over the world, there are millions of overseas Filipino workers who need to get in touch with their families via the telephone.

But the escalating costs of maintaining telecommunications networks, particularly those of fixed line, have pushed local carriers to seek a higher share of revenues derived from overseas calls. In November last year, they informed all their foreign partners abroad—AT&T included—that they would be seeking increases in termination rates.

Termination rates refer to fees that an originating carrier pays the firm where the call is com-

BITTER/ B6



Resist mediocrity.

There are those who refuse to become just another face in the crowd. Those who will not blend in. Who will not be taken by the "everybody-has-one-maybe-I-should-get-one" attitude. To them we humbly present the 2003 Opel Astra. Fog lamps, recessed roof rails, white face instrument panel and optional leather seats. All wrapped-up in a not-your-usual, German-engineered beauty of a car. **The 2003 Opel Astra.**

GM AutoWorld showrooms are open 7 days a week.
See the 2003 Opel Astra at
www.generalmotors.com.ph

GM AutoWorld MAKATI
2296 Don Chino Roces Ave.,
(formerly Pasong Tamo) Makati City
Tel. Nos.:867-8183 to 87 / 817-8056
817-8059

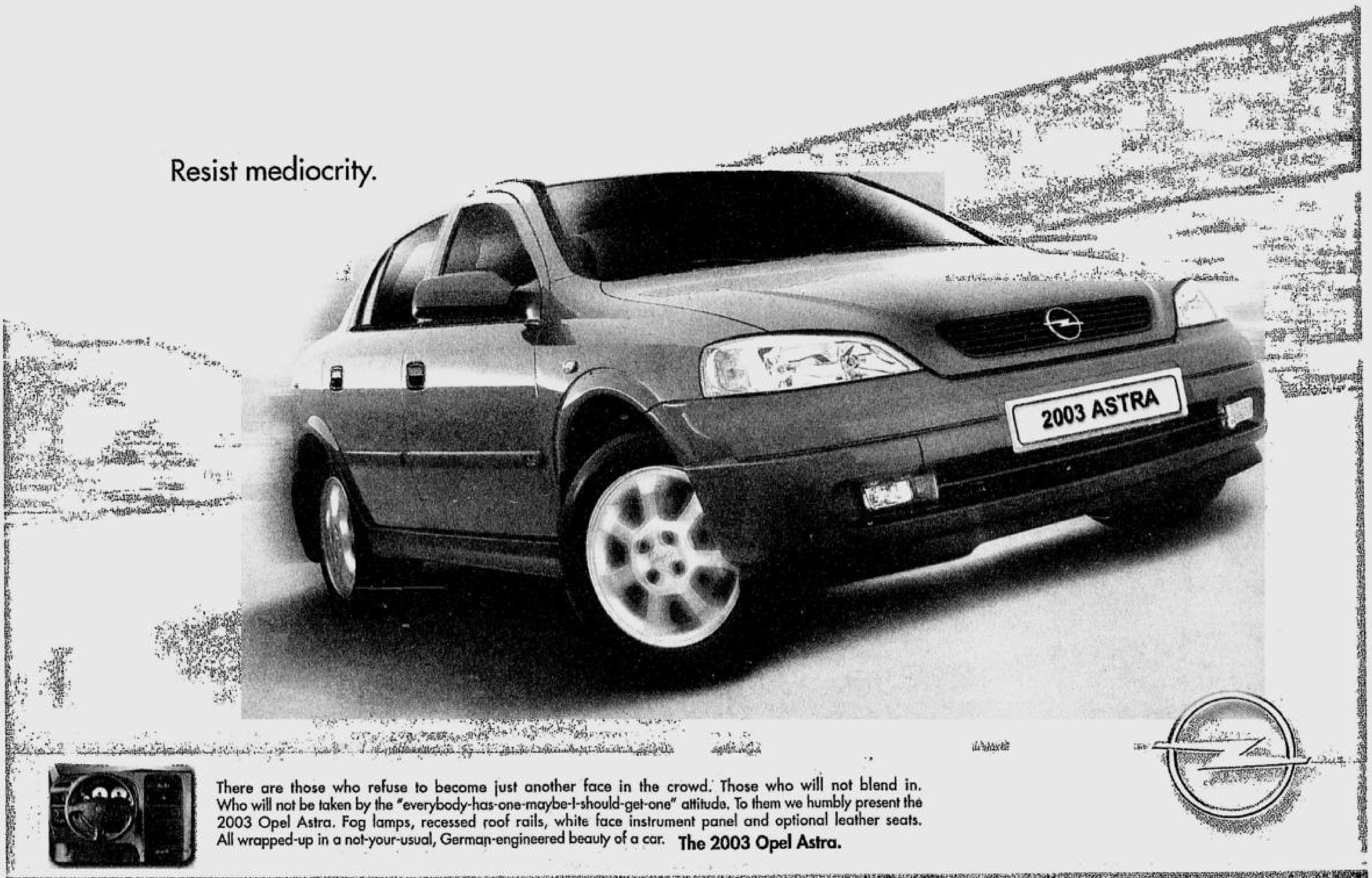
GM AutoWorld QUEZON AVENUE
1231 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos.:374-1250 to 59 / 413-8133
372-8001, 415-8870
Fax No.: 372-8008

GM AutoWorld SHAW
500 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.:535-4944 / 535-4938
533-1263
Fax No.: 535-4937 / 535-4935

GM AutoWorld PAMPANGA
MacArthur Highway, Dolores,
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel Nos.: (045) 961-2002, (045) 860-2000
Tel/Fax No.:(045) 961-2003

GM AutoWorld CEBU
Gov. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (32) 234-0426
Fax No.: (32) 231-7760

GM AutoWorld



Make Maybank your bank.

One of the top 130 banks in the world ●
Among the top 20 banks in Asia ●
Backed by over US$39 billion in assets ●
Present in major countries overseas with over ●
500 branches and representative offices worldwide
The largest bank in Malaysia ●

Maybank

Visit any of our branches nationwide
or call 521-7451.
www.maybank2u.com

MEGALINK Member PDIC. Deposits Insured up to P100,000.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Peza investments up 161%

INVESTMENTS in the country's economic zones climbed 161 percent in January this year on the back of new and expansion projects of export-oriented firms engaged in electronics, garments and food businesses.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority director general Lilia B. de Lima reported that investments hit P1.8 billion last month compared with P704 million during the same period a year ago.

De Lima said that P265.9 million of these investments went to information technology projects, which was 708 percent higher than the P32.9 million registered during the same period last year.

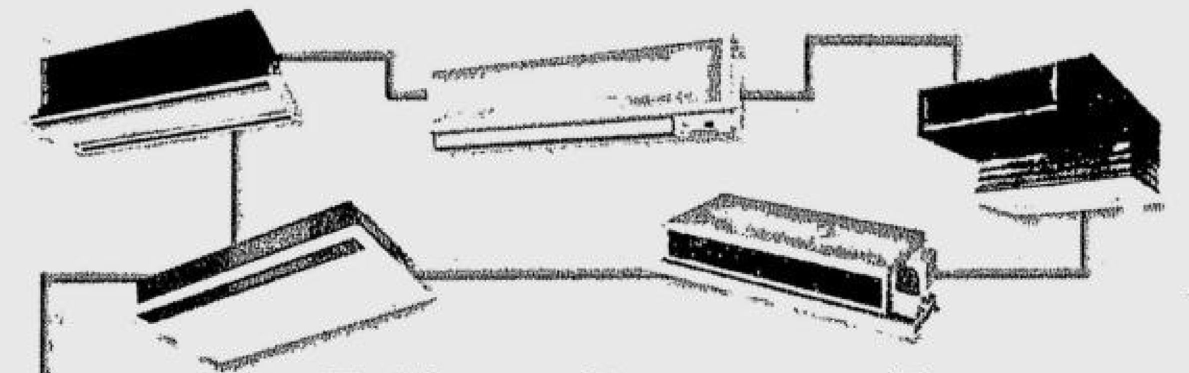
De Lima said the significant rise in investments showed that foreign and local investors were steadily gaining back their confidence in the economy despite the internal and external problems hounding the country.

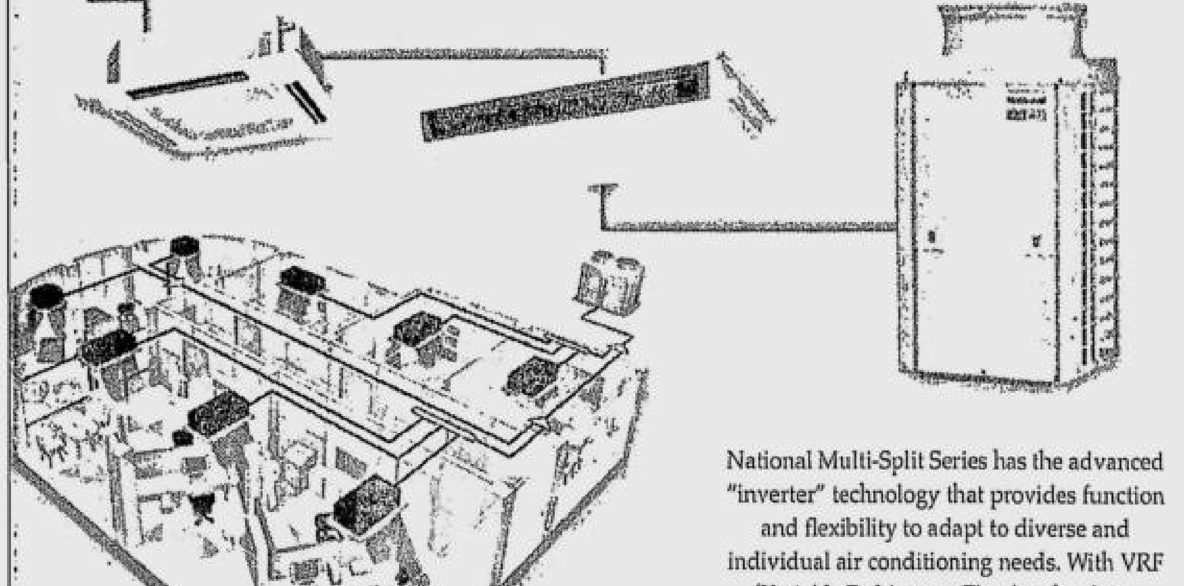
The country suffered a slowdown in investments last year due to sluggish world markets that forced export-oriented firms to cut down production and lay off workers.

Kyushu Matsushita Electric Corp. of the Philippines topped Peza's January investments tally with its initial infusion of P847.49 million to build a new factory in Laguna that would make DVD multi-disc drives. Kyushu Matsushita will invest nearly P1 billion over the next five years for the project.

Its sister firm, Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. is also spending P204.687 million to expand its production of air-conditioners.

Leading the IT investments is the Singaporean-controlled firm ICT Marketing Services of the Philippines which will invest P230 million for the operation customer support center in the country. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*





National
URBAN MULTI-SPLIT SERIES
CONNECTS EVERY STYLE IN COOLING COMFORT.

National Multi-Split Series has the advanced "inverter" technology that provides function and flexibility to adapt to diverse and individual air conditioning needs. With VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) technology, it allows temperature control according to varied area size of living and working spaces.

Beyond the usual comfort.

UM urban multi series

National

National Panasonic Sales Philippines (Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation).
3rd Floor Montivar Bldg., No. 34 Jupiter cor. Planet Sts., Bel-Air IV, Makati City Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE STRATEGIC BUSINESS ECONOMICS PROGRAM
is cordially inviting its alumni to the following:

SBEP Golf Tournament and Grand Alumni Homecoming
March 11, 2003
8:00 - 11:00 am Tee-off / 6:30 pm Homecoming Dinner
Wack Wack Golf & Country Club

A Briefing on Peace and Order
by Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
March 19, 2003
4:00–6:00 pm, PLDT Hall, UA&P Campus

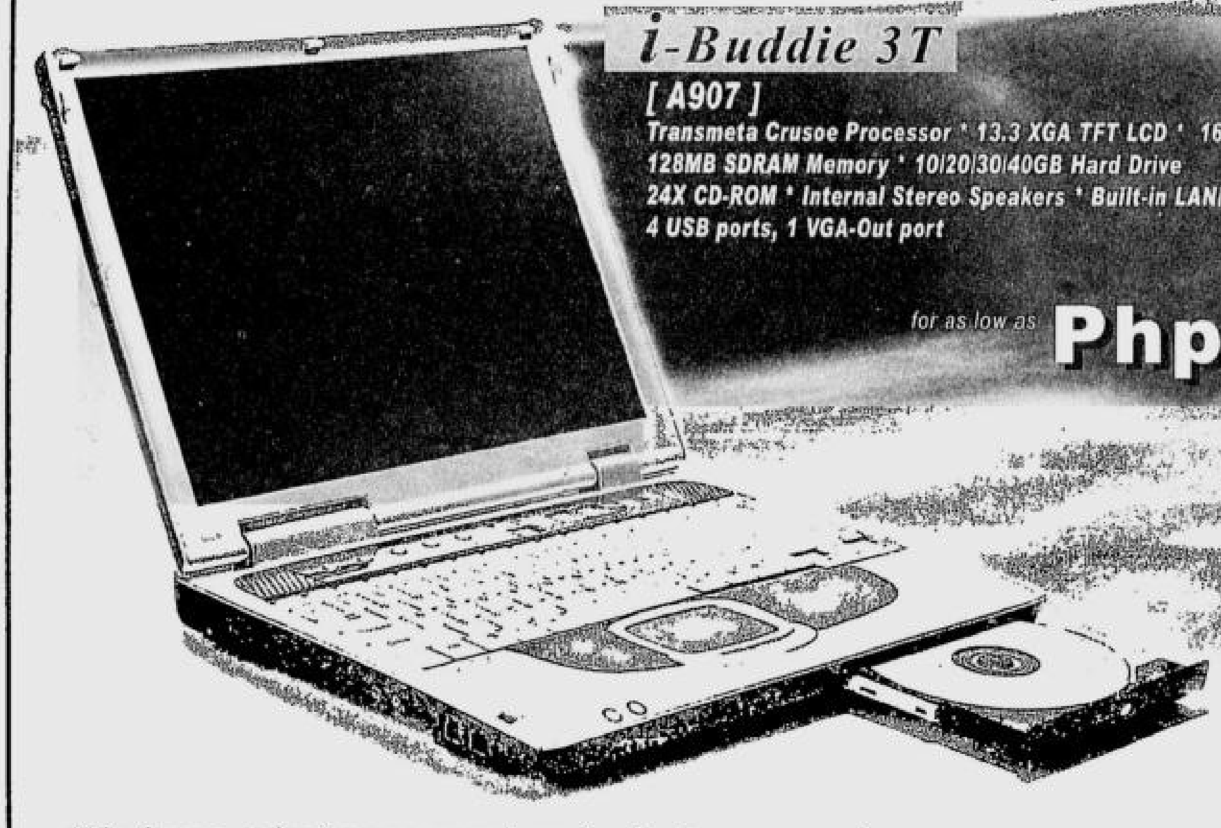
Now on its 29th year, the
Strategic Business Economics Program
is accepting limited applications
to its Executive Education offerings:

EXECUTIVE MBE [MASTER IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS]
and
EXECUTIVE CBE [CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS]

Be part of a great tradition and a network of executives in an atmosphere of academic excellence and real business applications.

SBEP Secretariat:
(02) 634-3095
(02) 634-2820
(02) 637-0912 loc. 222
(02) 634-2821 (fax)
E-mail sbep@uap.edu.ph

6th Floor ACB,
University of Asia
and the Pacific
Pearl Drive,
Ortigas Center,
Pasig City



Catch the lighter side of a PC...

ECS DESKNOTE™

Introducing the **ECS DeskNote i-buddie 3T** powered by the revolutionary chip that runs much cooler!
The ***Transmeta Crusoe!***

i-Buddie 3T
[A907]
Transmeta Crusoe Processor * 13.3 XGA TFT LCD * 16MB Video Memory
128MB SDRAM Memory * 10/20/30/40GB Hard Drive
24X CD-ROM * Internal Stereo Speakers * Built-in LAN/Modem
4 USB ports, 1 VGA-Out port

for as low as **Php 27,950**

We have what you need and what you want...

i-Buddie 3V
[A900]
VIA C3 1 Giga Pro CPU
13.3 / 14.1" XGA TFT LCD
128/256/512MB SDRAM Memory
64MB Shared Video Memory
24X CD-ROM / 8X DVD-ROM drive / Combo drive
USB Floppy disk drive
Internal Stereo Speakers
Built-in LAN / Modem
4 USB ports, 1 S-Video
PhP 34,950
(10GB,128MB Memory, 24X CD-ROM,13.3" TFT)

i-Buddie 3C
[A901]
Intel Celeron 1.1 GHz
13.3 / 14.1" XGA TFT LCD
128/256/512MB SDRAM Memory
64MB Shared Video Memory
24X CD-ROM / 8X DVD-ROM drive / Combo drive
USB Floppy disk drive
Internal Stereo Speakers
Built-in LAN / Modem
4 USB ports, 1 S-Video
PhP 38,950
(10GB,128MB Memory, 24X CD-ROM,13.3" TFT)

i-Buddie 4
[A928]
Intel Pentium 4 1.6 (max 2.8 GHz)
14.1" / 15.0" XGA TFT LCD
256MB/512MB/1GB DDR Memory
64MB Shared Video Memory
24X CD-ROM / 8X DVD-ROM drive / Combo drive
USB Floppy disk drive
Internal Stereo Speakers
Built-in LAN / Modem
1 Firewire port, 4 USB – 2.0 ports , 1 S-Video
PhP 49,950
(10GB,256MB Memory, 24X CD-ROM,14.1" TFT)

i-Buddie XP
[A929]
AMD Athlon XP 1800+ (max 2200+)
14.1" XGA TFT LCD
256MB/512MB/1GB DDR Memory
64MB Shared Video Memory
24X CD-ROM / 8X DVD-ROM drive / Combo drive
USB Floppy disk drive
Internal Stereo Speakers
Built-in LAN / Modem
1 Firewire port, 4 USB – 2.0 ports , 1 S-Video
PhP 48,950
(10GB,256MB Memory, 8X DVD-ROM,14.1" TFT)

Exclusive Distributor:
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.
www.axisglobal.com

ECS
www.ecs.com.tw

MANILA AUTHORIZED DEALERS: Accent Micro : SM Megamall/SM North - Tel: 634-2417/927-7330; Ace Net Inc. : Virramall/Shangri-La/SM North - Tel: 725-0762/725-0759/637-3708/426-4278 ; Computers N Options : SM North- Tel: 426-5669 ; Microstation : Virramall/Galleria/Shangri-la/SM North Tel: 721-1252/637-1473 637-2785/928-3502 , NT Computer : SM North/Shangri-La/South Mall - 927-2970/927-2907/634-4347/633-4690/902-0650/802-2180 , PC Chain : Virramall - Tel: 721-3586; PC Express : Shaw - Tel: 726-0898/726-0682 , PC Live : Megamall/SM North - Tel 633-1722/ 925-5688; Premium Logic : SM Megamall/SM North/SM Manila/Galleria - Tel: 687-3652/926-2112/926-2148/636-3631/525-3679 , Premium PC Depot : Gilmore Tel: 721-9383/7216347, Prodata : Sct. Gandia/P. Tuazon/Aurora Blvd - Tel: 927-5432/414-4336/414-4347/722-5341; Silicon Valley : SM North/Megamall/ SM Manila SM South Mall/Park Square Alabang Tel: 927-5698/633-1723/525-3218/806-9293/812-6734/807-8987, Total Quality Machines : Vito Cruz/Taft - Tel: 526-4503/536-3245 , Universal Computer Systems, Inc. : Virra Mall Greenhills - Tel. 721-2407/724-8391; Villman Computer Systems, Inc. : Ayala/Pag-asa/West/Cabanatuan - Tel. 892-2222/929-0411; Xsite : Megamall Tel. 687-2130

PROVINCIAL AUTHORIZED DEALERS: Accent Micro : Cebu - Tel: 032-2320461 to 62 ; Acecom Systems, Inc. : Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel 045-6114050, Alejandra Enterprises : Tuguegarao, Cagayan Tel. 078-8469164; All Electronics Enterprises : Legazpi City Albay/ Naga City, Camarines Sur/ Sorsogon, Sorsogon Tel: 052-480601/ 054-8113624 to 25/ 056-2111083, BCG : Bacolod Tel: 034-4342532/ 034-4342527, Benerson : Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel: 045-9823920; CBX Corp. : Cebu Tel: 032-2314369, Columbia-South : Davao Tel 082-2221808/ 226-4222, Computer World Marketing : Davao Tel 082 2213752 to 53, Computer Zone : Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel: 045-9828855, Complex Computers : Baguio Tel: 074-4426275, Concept Computer : Davao Tel 033-3362346/ 033-3208510; Cyberia @ Home Enterprises : Santiago City, Isabela Tel: 078-6826612; DC Tech Micro Services : Davao Tel. 082-2212380/082-2212382, Delta Merchandising : Iloilo Tel. 033-3363196; 336-4509 Digivision : Lucena City, Quezon Tel: 042-6605443/ 042-7104532; Digital Interface : Davao Tel: 082-2272262/ 082-2240472; EDS : Tacloban Tel: 053-3255904; 053-3253288, Electroworld : Cebu Tel: 032-3452787 to 89; Exponent Enterprises : Baguio Tel: 074-4448798, Globestar Computer : Santiago City, Isabela Tel: 078-6827347, IECC : Bacolod Tel 034-4339472/ 034-4336045; Laser Marketing : Baguio Tel: 074-4425854, Lenton Marketing, Inc. : Cebu Tel: 032-2539451; NorthPoint Computer : Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Tel: 077-7715192, PC4ME : San Fernando, La Union Tel. 072-8882240; 072-7002249 PC King : Baguio City Tel. 074-4445540, PC Shack : Davao Tel: 082-2210594/082-2275943, Prologue Computers : Los Banos, Laguna Tel: 049-5362057, Planet Earth Computer : Vigan City, Ilocos Sur Tel: 077-7227000, Silicon Valley : Cebu Tel. 032-2340219, Thinking Tools Inc. : Cebu Tel: 032-2542227, Unicom : Baguio Tel: 074-4428275, Unipaco : Cagayan de Oro Tel: 08822-729975/726600, Villman Computer Systems, Inc. : Cabanatuan/Olongapo Tel: 044-6002000/ 044-6000674/ 047-2246881

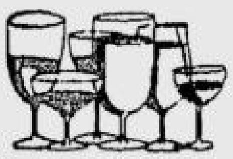
LEGAL INFORMATION:
ECS DeskNotes are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Axis Global Technologies, Inc. DeskNote names, labels, logos and combinations thereof are registered trademarks of Axis Global Technologies, Inc. in the Philippines. Unauthorized and illegal use of DeskNote names, labels and logos is strictly prohibited by the law and shall be dealt with accordingly.

WARNING:
The DeskNote is invented and manufactured by Elitegroup Computer Systems. DeskNote and DeskNote names, labels, logos and combinations thereof are properties of Elitegroup Computer Systems. Protect yourself. Get the best support and warranty for the product. Buy only the original and genuine Desknote. Look for the ECS logo. Beware of clones and imitations.

POWERED BY:
Crusoe

Agitations against Agile

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE USUAL suspect in the anti-Agile, antiglobalization racket coming from Congress is taipan Lucio Tan.

Not many know that even the Aboitizes and their ally, port services king Enrique Razon Jr., have been quietly moving within the corridors of power to counter the lobby to open even the country's shipping industry to foreign competition.

Proof? Look at Friday's front-page blast of the Razon daily against the USAID-funded advocacy being conducted by its Agile (Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity) program.

According to the grapevine, the Aboitizes, who own the second-biggest domestic shipping fleet, are steaming over Agile's claim that the local shipping industry is protectionist and uncompetitive in rates.

Thumbnail comparison: Shipping cost for a 20-foot container van from Manila to the United States is about $2,000, against $6,000 from Hawaii to the US mainland.

And because of the restrictive Jones Act, the Hawaiian shipment must be carried by a 100-percent owned US shipping line—in contrast, foreigners may own up to 40 percent of Philippine shipping companies—in a 100-percent US-built ship manned by a 100-percent American crew.

Not only is the American restriction being felt in maritime and airline industries. Even the Delgados of Islacom have for a year now been caught in the regulatory wringer after taking a minority stake in Saipan's telecom provider.

The Delgados, according to the grapevine, have to resort to hiring a Washington, DC-based Republican lobby firm to help them get through the federal gridlock.

Within the Cabinet, even free trader Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. has been sounding the protectionist alarm against Australian obstinacy to open up the subcontinent to Philippine fruit exports that the local American Chamber of Commerce sought a private meeting to get a clearer reading of the ex-Del Monte boss.

Tagaytay stakeout

ARMED with knives and sharp retorts, the Tagaytay Highlands cabin log owners grumbling over the planned construction of condo buildings overlooking their bedrooms met early Friday evening with developer Highlands Prime.

The only casualty, we are happy to report, was the Pinoy *merienda* served at the Highlands steakhouse, where the meeting was held.

According to the grapevine, the homeowners were led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, ex-Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, El Shaddai's Mike Velarde and radio magnate Luis Vera.

To make a long story short, Highlands child-of-owner Henry "Big Boy" Sy Jr. promised to consider the homeowners' suggestion to reduce the height of the proposed condo nearest their properties and make up for the reduction by adding floors to the outer condos.

Highlands Prime CEO Antonio Henson was absent from the meeting, giving the alibi that he was meeting with, strangely, Big Boy Sy.

Persian Ka-boom

INVESTMENT banker Noel Escaler is making up for the seven years of bondage he had with painter Mariko Jacinto.

The Hong Kong-based financial spinner was recently exchanging steamy glances with a hot date in Persian Kebob on Makati Ave. when who went charging but his ex-roommate, Jacinto herself.

According to an eyewitness, Jacinto was in a nearby 24-hour convenience store when she espied Escaler's CR-V and a backup Safari.

There ensued a brief but heated confrontation, with Jacinto demanding the return of her P1.8-million placement with Escaler.

Jacinto, who had sometimes been forced to take jeepneys since she was thrown out of Escaler's Pacific Plaza Towers penthouse, wanted her money back so she could buy herself a car.

Wanting to shield his date from the public dressing down—the private undressing would come later—Escaler was supposed to have stammered, just to dismiss his enraged ex, that Jacinto could already claim the check from his lawyer, Katrina Legarda.

But according to the grapevine, Legarda for some reason refused to return the calls of Jacinto's counsel and hand over the check.

The courtroom drama continues.

Advertising musical chairs

MCCANN-Erickson launched the price-buster campaign of Smart in the '90s, not Campaigns and Grey as this column reported on Wednesday.

What Campaigns and Grey launched instead was Smart's GSM service.

McCann has since moved to Globe, while Campaigns is now with Digitel.

Unknown to the public, McCann's Emily Abrera was neck deep in the propaganda movement against Estrada with Campaigns' Yolanda Ong despite their competition, while the head of McCann's sister company, BSMG, Babes Romualdez, was openly traipsing with Erap and, according to the INQUIRER's editors, secretly directing the Erap-inspired advertising boycott against this paper.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SALIMS are in an advanced state of discussions with a foreign group—said to be Telecoms Malaysia—intent on acquiring First Pacific's shareholdings in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

BIR to launch ₱424-B tax campaign today

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will launch today a year-long campaign to collect P424 billion in taxes and help the government plug an estimated P202-billion deficit.

The BIR has teamed up with groups like the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangon Pilipino Movement for the campaign.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said religious leader Mike Velarde, head of the El Shaddai movement would "symbolically" pay his taxes on March 10 to set a good example to his followers.

Also to support the tax campaign, dubbed as "Buwis Ko, Alay Ko," are the Makati Business Club, Bankers Association of the Philippines, Philippine Institute of Public Accountants, Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines and Management Association of the Philippines. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

Maybank

FASTER PAYROLL DISBURSEMENTS WITH THE MAYBANK PAYROLL MANAGER

Maybank Philippines is pleased to announce the availability of the **Payroll Manager**, Maybank's exclusive automated payroll facility aimed to address the payroll disbursement worries of companies. The first of a host of convenient cash management services set to be launched within the year by Maybank, the **Payroll Manager** automates the uploading and crediting process of a company's payroll; this translates to better time and resources management and utilization. Account access is also made easier and more convenient because the system is Automated Teller Machine (ATM) based, which makes each payroll account accessible through over 3,000 Megalink and BancNet ATMs nationwide on top of Maybank's very own ATM network. In addition, Maybank ATM cardholders enjoy the added convenience of accessing their accounts or making transactions when they travel to in Malaysia, Brunei or Singapore.

Piloted initially in select Metro Manila branches, **Maybank Payroll Manager** is now available in all Maybank branches natiowide. Procedures have been simplified and the usual Minimum Average Daily balance per month requirement has been made more flexible to accommodate even compact companies with small manpower pool.

Maybank Philippines form part of the Maybank group, the largest banking group in Malaysia with more than US$39 billion in assets. Maybank is among the top 20 banks in Asia and among the world's top 130 banks. Aside from the Philippines, Maybank is also present in the major financial centers worldwide such as New York and London; in Singapore, Hong Kong, China and in other parts of Asia and the Middle East.

FAX REPAIR
AS LOW AS
P300
FREE ESTIMATE
We offer world-class fax repair & we're sure no one else can compare!
KINGS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
KCS
- G/F Auro-Vir Plaza, 1695 Evangelista St. Bangkal, Makati City Tels. 894-2309 / 843-6830 / 843-6862
- Rm.201 Columbian Bldg. 160 West Ave. cor. EDSA, Quezon City Tels. 929-2052 / 929-2054
- 27-F Sikatuna St., Brgy. Parian, Cebu City TEL. (032) 254-8104 / 255-7401

Panasonic	NEC	SAMSUNG
SANYO	[illegible]	[illegible]
MURATA	SHARP	OKI
NISSEI	Canon	OTHERS

CUT THIS AD AND AVAIL OF A 10% DISCOUNT
We also repair Computers

Digitel to award ₱7-B contract

Digital Mobile Philippines Inc. will award within the first quarter a contract for the third phase of its expansion project, estimated at P7 billion, that will bring the number of its cell sites to more than 1,000 this year.

Digitel chief financial officer Jaime Cabangis said in an interview that the number of qualified bidders had been narrowed down to four and that bidding was already on the final stages.

The four bidders include French telecommunications firm Alcatel SA, German power and communications company Siemens AG, telecommunications network provider Ericsson and Chinese firm Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. ***Abigail L. Ho***

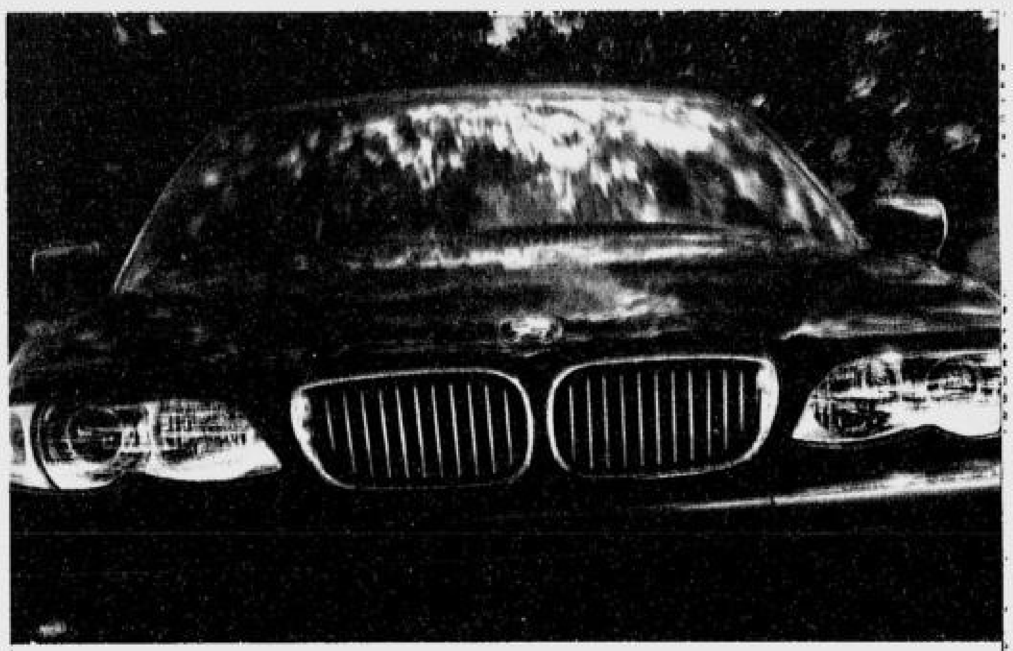
PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

US Dollar Time Deposit Rates

	USD1,000- USD9,999-	USD10,000- USD49,999-	USD50,000- and UP
1 Mo.	2.000%	2.250%	2.500%
2 Mos.	2.000%	2.250%	2.500%
3 Mos.	2.250%	2.500%	2.750%
6 Mos.	2.500%	2.750%	2.875%
12 Mos.	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%

*Rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates quoted are on a per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

For inquiries, visit any PSBank branch or call our offices in:
Metro Manila 885-8239, 885-8208 (loc. 8637, 8307)
Cebu (032) 255-7734, 253-3350; Davao (082) 222-5001, 222-4280



Special IBM-Veritas Data Storage Bundle

For a limited time only, get an IBM LTO Ultrium External Tape Drive for only P249,000 and receive the latest Veritas release of Backup Exec v. 9.0 worth P44,321

absolutely FREE!!!

IBM LTO Ultrium External Tape Drive

The building block of a new family of scalable, flexible, standards-based tape solutions.

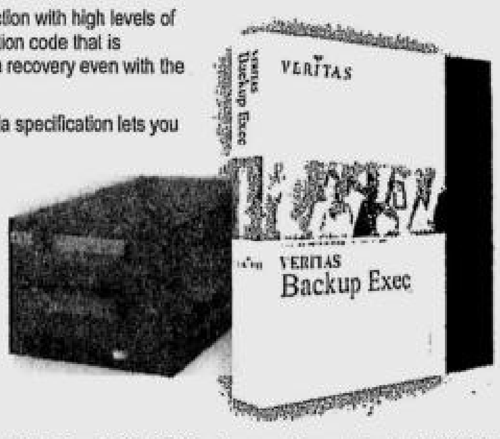
- **Powerful.** An excellent alternative to DLT, DAT, 1/4 inch, 4mm or 8mm tape drives with a sustained data transfer rate of up to 30MB/sec (compressed) and up to 200GB (compressed) capacity in a single cartridge.
- **Reliable.** Increased data protection with high levels of reliability based on error correction code that is powerful enough to ensure data recovery even with the loss of a track.
- **Open.** The open standard media specification lets you choose from multiple vendors with support across platforms and operating systems.

Backup Exec 9.0 for Windows Servers

Some of the reasons why Veritas is the world's No. 1 data protection solution for Windows

- Fastest Exchange Server Backup and Restore
- First to Leverage Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Technology
- First Anywhere Internet Interface
- Fastest, Simplest Installation for Windows Data Protection. From shelf to backup in 10 minutes. There's a reason why VERITAS owns 56%* of the Windows data protection market.

*Source: Gartner Dataquest, March 2002



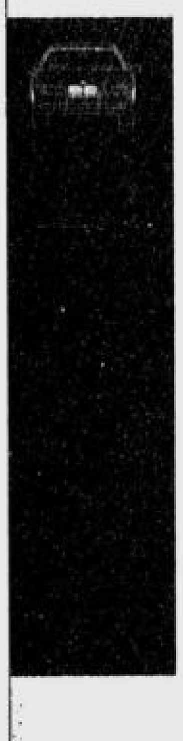
IBM
VERITAS

Promo valid from **February 2 to March 31, 2003** only or until supplies last. Valid for Philippine companies only.

For more information or a free demo, please fax back the completed form to 817-6430 and we will have an authorized dealer contact you.

Name: ____ Position: ____
Company: ____ Tel. No.: ____
Email: ____ Address: ____

Value Added Distributor
WSi
Wordtext Systems, Inc.
810 9301 / 812 7666 / 1 800 1 8889301 sales@wsiphil.com.ph
MANILA: 7/F SEDCCO Bldg., Legaspi cor. Rada Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Tel. Nos.: 810 9301, 812 7666 Fax: 817 6430 sales@wsiphil.com.ph
CEBU: WSI TECHNOLOGIES, INC., Lyden II Bldg., F. Ramos St., Cebu City. Tel. Nos.: (32) 255 1012 to 14 Fax: (32) 255 1011 wsitech@wsiphil.com.ph



BMW Financial Services
www.bmw.com.ph
(02) 888 7395
Sheer Driving Pleasure

Sheer driving pleasure starts at Php 330 a day.

BMW Financial Services lets you experience sheer driving pleasure at payment schemes that fit your lifestyle. Our financing schemes are so flexible that you can get a BMW 316i for Php 330 a day*.

And with BMW Flex Finance, we can even accommmodate a 25% downpayment.

*Rate based on BMW Flex Finance at 55% down payment at 36 months with a 40% balloon.

For more information, visit only our Authorized BMW Dealers listed below, or e-mail us at: financial.services@bmw.com.ph.

PGA Cars, Inc.
201 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel. (02) 727 0381 • Fax (02) 727 0390

Prestige Cars, Inc. (Libis)
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419

Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Tel. (02) 892 8127 • Fax (02) 816 7325

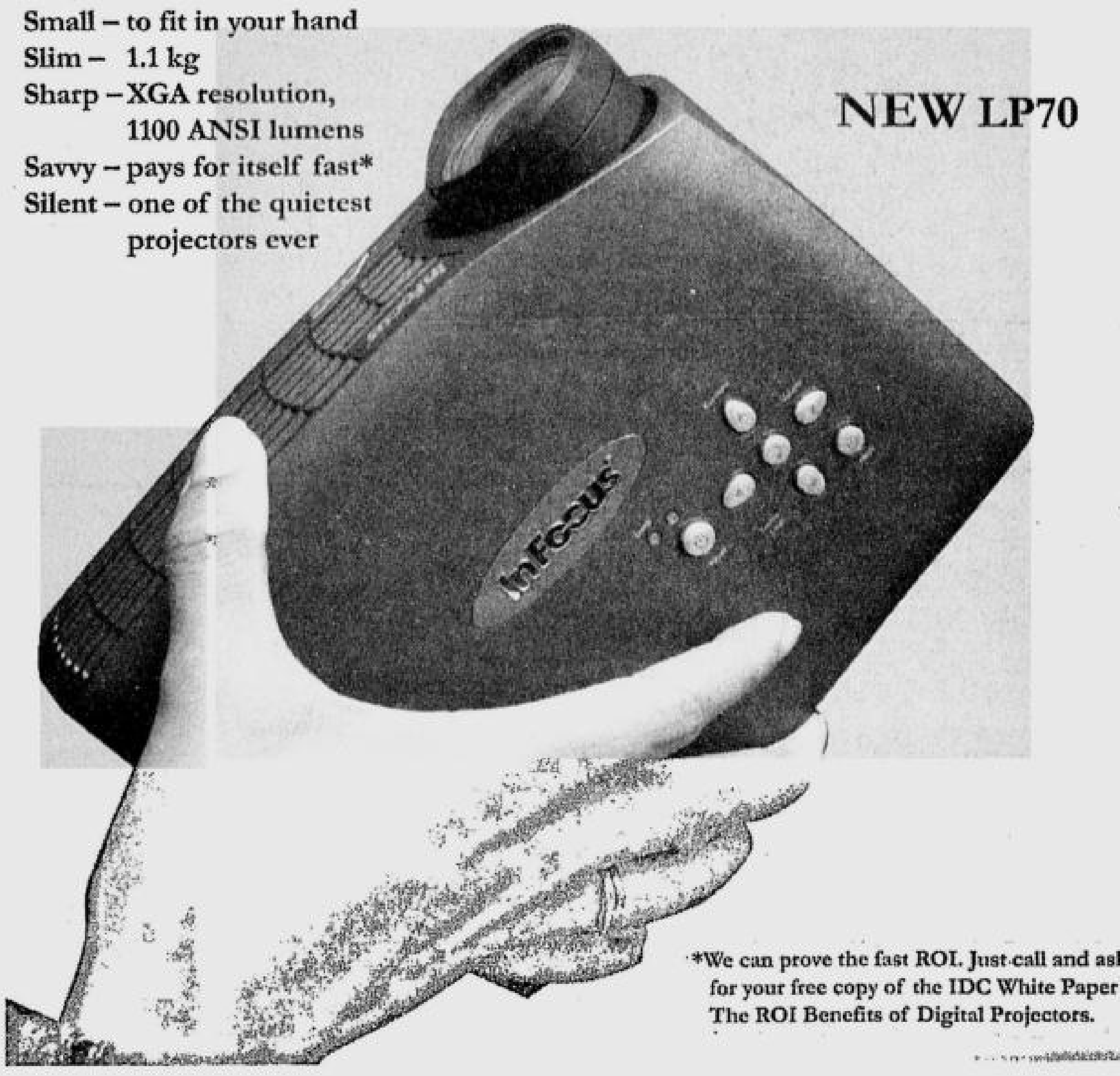
Pampanga Premier Cars, Inc.
Interim Showroom, along Olongapo-Gapan Road,
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355

Performance Auto Motor Group, Inc.
Magallanes St. corner P. Burgos St., Cebu City
Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

Voila! The secret of successful presentations

Small – to fit in your hand
Slim – 1.1 kg
Sharp – XGA resolution,
1100 ANSI lumens
Savvy – pays for itself fast*
Silent – one of the quietest
projectors ever

NEW LP70



*We can prove the fast ROI. Just call and ask for your free copy of the IDC White Paper – The ROI Benefits of Digital Projectors.

Limited International Warranty – Two years on parts and labor
Philippines – Exclusive InFocus/InCare Program

For a free demo of this and/or other models, call 723–0601 or visit www.infocus.com

InFocus®
The Worldwide Leader in Digital Projection

better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
url: www.ati.com.ph • e-mail: inquire@ati.com.ph
Tel: 723-0601• Fax: 723-7951

DTF Consulting Network

One Tool To Improve Business Results.

Get the world's premier quality improvement program that has dramatically turned around the business performance of Johnson & Johnson, General Electric and Citibank.

SIX SIGMA
MOTOROLA UNIVERSITY

Seal of approval from Six Sigma pioneer–Motorola University –backed up with 20 years of program experience and well-documented results from leading global companies.

Cut down on operating costs and achieve total customer satisfaction by reducing defects to virtually zero.

Drive quality improvements in 4-6 months using proven, systematic techniques.

Turn around and sustain improved business performance across all levels – customers, suppliers, and channel partners.

MOTOROLA UNIVERSITY

SIX SIGMA
Six Sigma
Business Improvement Program

Join the Leadership Jumpstart Manila
25-26 March, AIM Conference Center

Especially designed for CEO's, Directors, GM's & other Top Executives.
Your attendance completes the pre-requisite stage of the full Six Sigma Black Belt Program that ultimately leads to formal Motorola University certification and guarantees improved business performance.

Sponsors:

INQUIRER — BUSINESS convergence@work — Bank of Commerce — WWWExpress

Motorola University is in partnership with DTF Consulting Network to organize the Six Sigma in the Philippines.

Register now! Limited to a select number of participants only. For reservations and more information, contact our Secretariat at HOTLINE NOS. 722-4516 & 722-4525. Ask about our Early Bird and Corporate Group Discounts. • E-mail address: denvergroup@dtfconnet.com

What kind of parliament will it be?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE HOUSE of Representatives has started discussing, in plenary session, whether or not it should convene itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. Whether a constituent assembly is the better way to amend the Constitution than a constitutional convention is not all that important.

What is far more important to the future of this country is the plan to change the form of government from presidential into parliamentary. There are other proposed amendments, but these are merely a smoke screen.

So, let us limit our discussion to this idea of a parliament. To start with, just exactly what kind of parliament is being foisted on the Filipino people?

There are as many parliamentary systems as there are countries using them. No two parliaments are alike anywhere in the whole, wide world. First, of course, is the British parliament, the mother of all parliaments, where there is the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the monarchy. The British parliament is working perfectly for the United Kingdom now, but it took about 500 years of sometimes strife-torn evolution. Then, every European country has its own version, notably France, Germany, Italy and Spain. In the North American continent, there is the Canadian version. In Latin America, every country has his own style. In Africa, you have all sorts of copies. Every Middle Eastern despot has a rubber stamp parliament, even Saddam Hussein has one. Every communist and former communist country around the world has its own brand of parliament. Nearer home, the parliaments of India, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have their own particular quirks. The Batasan Pambansa of Marcos was a parliament, Filipino-style.

The kind of parliament was the major topic in a chat that the senior citizens group of my neighborhood recently had with Rep. Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments. Nachura started by explaining the need to amend the Constitution and the two ways of doing it. Then he explained the selling points of a parliament. I pointedly asked, "Under our presidential system, the President prepares the national budget, the House and the Senate approve it, and the Department of Budget and Management runs it. Funds for pork barrel projects need the President's signature. How will things be in the proposed parliament?"

Nachura skirted the question by saying that the parliamentary form has not been decided upon, implying that, until then, such mundane details like budget making and pork barrel disbursements have not been worked out yet. This jarred me. How can Congress propose a change into a parliamentary system of government without deciding what form will it take? That is like selling an insurance policy without telling the prospective buyer the terms of the contract, except the barest details.

But, Nachura went on, those who are proposing a shift to a parliamentary system are now looking at the French model.

I have looked up the French model since the meeting. In 1946, Charles de Gaulle, sick and tired of the instability of the parliament of the Fourth Republic, resigned in a huff as Prime Minister. He retired to his family's old country estate and wrote his three-volume memoirs. In his spare time, he played solitaire. When the French generals and farmers in Algeria, a colony of France then, rose in revolt, top government officials pleaded to De Gaulle to come back to Paris and save France once again as he did in World War II. He agreed on one condition: he would be allowed to rewrite the Constitution. The result was the 1958 Constitution, which the French approved overwhelmingly, and is in force today.

Under the De Gaulle constitution, the President is voted directly by the people, not by members of Parliament, for a six-year term. The President is not decorative or ministerial. In fact, he has awesome powers. While the Parliament—there are two houses, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies—can bring the government down in a no-confidence vote, the President can dissolve the Parliament any time. This provision has resulted in a standoff—and stability. There has been no major upheaval in the French government since then. Here is the one I like best: the Parliament's power to legislate is clipped because the Cabinet can also enact laws.

In reality, the French parliamentary system is presidential; in fact, more presidential than the Philippine presidential system.

So, let's copy the French model. All we have to do is to find a Caloy de Gaulle. No one from the military or police, active or retired, need apply, please. (More next week.)

DA keeps a hands-off policy on rice importation

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is keeping its hands off the country's rice importation program, saying it prefers to turn over this function to farmers' groups.

"The President made it very clear that if there would be someone who would benefit in the importation of rice, it should be the farmers," Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said in a gathering in Davao last week of Mindanao-based regional agriculture and fishery councils.

The government had decided to transfer the function of importing some 400,00 metric tons of rice this year to the private sector, through accredited farmers' cooperatives. Also, the agriculture department and the National Food Authority have agreed to lower the minimum required import volume to 500 metric tons from the previous level of 10,000 metric tons as proposed by the farmers' groups.

The NFA, likewise, agreed to the adoption of a system in allocating the importation to ensure the participation of as many legitimate farmers' groups as possible. The agency had earlier considered using the "first-come, first served" system of distributing the import requirements among the farmers' groups.

Also, the government is now considering other modes of financing the importation, on top of cash bonds and/or letters of credit, in view of the farmers' complaints.

To minimize the impact of the importation on the farm sector, Lorenzo said the government would be buying at least 10 percent of the rice output in critical regions, particularly if palay prices would fall below P9 per kilo. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Ayala Plans raises capital to P400M

AYALA Plans Inc., a subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), said it had increased its capital by P300 million last year, from P100 million to P400 million.

The capital infusion forms part of Ayala Plans' long-term corporate strategy to gain market leadership in the pre-need insurance company. Its capitalization, the company said in a statement, had exceeded the minimum paid-up capital requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Under the revised capital adequacy rule of the SEC, pre-need companies must have paid-up capital of P100 million to be allowed to sell three types of pre-need plans, as well as traditional educational plans.

"At this point in our company's history, the capital infusion makes us more financially stable and poised for growth," said J.P. Anthony S. Parungao, chief marketing officer.

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
7th Floor Quad Alpha Centrum 125 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City,
Metro Manila, Philippines 1550
Telephone No: (632) 635-23-87, Telefax: (632) 635-44-95 Email: acmdcmla@info.com.ph

NOTICE OF SPECIAL / ADVANCE GENERAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Special/Advance General Meeting of Stockholders of ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ("ACMDC") will be held at the Valle Verde Country Club, Capt. H. Javier St., Bo. Oranbo, Pasig City on Monday, March 31, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Management's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2001
4. Ratification of the Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management
5. Election of Directors for the current year
6. Appointment of external auditors
7. Increase in capital stock
8. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
9. Adjournment

The Board has fixed 12:00 noon of Monday March 10, 2003 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. The stock and transfer books will be closed at such hour.

An Information Statement pursuant to Section 17.1(b) of the Securities Regulation Code is available to all stockholders as of March 10, 2003. Any registered stockholder wishing to receive a copy of the Information Statement may call the office of ACMDC or send email or write to ACMDC. Copies of the Information Statement will also be available at the meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the said Meeting in person but wish to be represented thereat should submit their proxy instruments to the undersigned at the principal office of the Company at the 7th Floor, Quad Alpha Centrum, 125 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City no later than 12:00 noon of Monday, March 10, 2003. Validation of proxies shall be held on the following day at the Company's principal office. The giving of such proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Stockholders' Meeting.

Immediately upon the adjournment of the Meeting, the Directors elected will proceed with their Organizational Meeting.

(Original signed)
REGINALDO L. HERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Mandaluyong City, Philippines
February 24, 2003

SSS, UK firm to develop QC property

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Social Security System has tied up with UK-based property expert EC Harris for a build-operate-transfer project that will develop the pension fund's four-hectare prime property in Quezon City into a mixed-use complex worth about P5.4 billion.

The concept for the new SSS corporate tower was submitted by the pension fund to the National Economic and Development Authority recently as an unsolicited proposal, Neda assistant director general Ruben Reinoso said.

Assuming that all the documents submitted were sufficient, Reinoso said it would take the Neda-led Investment Coordination Committee four to eight weeks to evaluate the project.

Under the BOT law, proponents are required to seek the approval of the ICC and in the case of unsolicited proposals, a Swiss challenge is mandated to determine if the pricing is reasonable.

The plan is to develop the idle property on East Avenue corner Edsa into an SSS Center that will host a twin-tower structure that will become the pension fund's new headquarters.

Also part of the project being packaged by EC Harris is the redevelopment of SSS' existing 12-story headquarters also on East Avenue into a new hospital for members.

The SSS, a pension fund servicing private sector employees, had been in talks with the foreign group for the property project as early as 1999. SSS president Corazon dela Paz, who earlier talked about plans to put up the SSS Center, had said the pension fund would not spend a single centavo on the project. She said the SSS would have its property as its contribution to the prospective joint venture.

The SSS, which has been forced to dip into its reserves last year to pay claims that exceeded by P3 billion the total contributions collected during the period, has been rationalizing the use of its properties in the metropolis.

EC Harris is a leading international consultant specializing in real estate, infrastructure and construction projects. It employs 2,000 people and maintains 40 offices in over 20 different countries. The firm has worked on projects in more than 80 countries and turns over consultancy fees in excess of £110 million a year.

Gov't drive vs illegal LPG trade expands coverage

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recently issued a stern warning against traders in Visayas and Mindanao suspected of being involved in the illegal refilling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders amid reports of the proliferation of the racket in these regions.

The NBI said it would focus on the Visayas and Mindanao its nationwide crackdown on illegal LPG trade in the face of mounting complaints from communities and local governments. Residents in these areas expressed fear that their neighborhoods were being exposed to serious risks posed by illegal LPG refillers.

The NBI also said it had received reports that illegal LPG outlets were selling underfilled cylinders. These traders say their products were cheaper alternatives but were actually underweight, thus cheating unscrupulous consumers in Visayas and Mindanao, the NBI said.

Earlier, the NBI vowed to relentlessly pursue complaints filed before the justice department versus several firms suspected of engaging in the business of illegal refilling of LPG cylinders.

SUBIC BAY OUTINGS
for COMPANIES • SCHOOLS
and GOVERNMENT OFFICES
Amidst forest, seaviews, and flowering gardens
INCLUDES OVERNIGHT STAY IN FULLY FURNISHED SINGLE OR DOUBLE ROOM SUITES WITH EITHER TWIN OR QUADRUPLE SHARING, PLUS 3 FULL NOURISHING MEALS, AND FREE USE OF FUNCTION ROOM WITH COMPLETE SEMINAR FACILITIES. UNRESTRICTED USE OF 3 SWIMMING POOLS, EXERCISE GYM, & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.
AS LOW AS P795 PER PAX (ALL INCLUSIVE)
CALL CROWN PEAK HOTELS: UPPER CUBI, SUBIC FREEPORT; (047) 252-3144; (047) 252-6658; 0919 313-1373; 0918 929-5052; 0918 5069

Join the
Graphics & Publishing
Seminar Series
Increase Your Productivity. Sharpen Your Skills. Learn with the Master.
March 27-29, 2003
AIM ACCEED Conference Center
Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts.
Legaspi Village, Makati City,
Philippines
Who Should Attend:
Graphic designers • digital artists • photographers • publishers • commercial printers • webmasters • multimedia specialists • art directors • animators • layout artists • print managers • IT professionals • editors • advertising • marketing executives and corporate communicators.
Seminar Topics/Programme
March 27, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Learning Photoshop and Its Application in Imaging for Print & Web
- Digital Photography & Photoshop Techniques for Print & Web
March 28, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Web Design with Dreamweaver MX
- Web Animation Techniques with Flash MX
March 29, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Learning 3D Studio Max 4.0
- Learning Maya 4.5
Organized by: fmi www.fmi.com.ph
Sponsors: Canon Softrigger Interactive WEB Philippines, Inc.
REGISTER NOW! Limited Seats Available
To sign-up
Call: (632) 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893 • Fax: (632) 896-0637, 890-2101
Email: fiera@info.com.ph, visit website: http://www.fmi.com.ph

IT consortium unveils travel guide via SMS

A CONSORTIUM of IT firms have developed a travel information service via mobile phone short messaging service (SMS) or text messaging.

MapCentral and CyberSoft Geoinformatics Inc. (CIGI) have developed the WOW Philippines Finder. The service offers accurate and complete information on tourism facilities, services and attractions in the country through text messaging.

"The product is designed to empower tourists—Filipinos and foreigners alike—to travel to any of the country's 7,100 destinations with the convenience of information that can be provided via simple text messaging," MIC Holdings president and CEO Philip E. Juico said.

MIC Holdings holds the controlling interest in MapCentral and CIGI. The product has already received the endorsement of the Department of Tourism (DOT). WOW, the tag coined by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for the Philippines, stands for "world of wonders."

"WOW Philippines Finder makes traveling around the Philippines much simpler. We believe this is a big step in boosting Philippine tourism," Juico said.

Mobile phone users who want to avail of the service just need to type "WOW <space><type of attraction or facility><space> in <space><location>" and send to 288 for Smart and Talk N Text users or 2958 for Globe users.

GOINGS-ON

LCF seminar

LEADING personalities in corporate social responsibility programs are slated to speak at the League of Corporate Foundations' seminar-workshop series on Friday, Feb. 28, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bataan Room, 32/F Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

The speakers are Vicky Garchitorena, Ayala Foundation head and LCF chair; lawyer Louie Pangilinan, president of Fort Bonifacio Development Foundation; Bobby Calingo, Mirant Philippines Foundation executive director; Nicole Tria Tirona of Andres Soriano Foundation; Fely Soledad, executive director of Philippine Council for NGO Certification, and Art Cariaga, LCF executive director. The seminar will have as its guest speaker Saturnino G. Belen, chair of Bato-Balani Foundation and president of First Asia Venture Capital and Fastech Synergy Ltd.

Petron Foundation's Malu Erni, who is also president of LCF, is hosting the training seminar organized by the training and research committee under Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Zuellig Foundation executive director. Inquiries and reservations may be coursed through the LCF secretariat, 892-9189 and 892-9084. Please look for Art Cariaga or Pia Bernal.

Award for SM Prime

SM Prime was ranked first among Philippine corporations in the corporate governance category by Asset Magazine in its December 2002 issue. The Hong Kong-based publication is one of the leading finance magazines for Asian issuers and global investors specializing in the Asian market.

The annual Best in Corporate Governance was conducted by Asset Benchmark Survey, a Hong Kong-based research institution, tapping exclusively institutional investors. Survey period was from May 2002 to September 2002 in which 145 institutional investment houses participated. The criteria used was: transparency, accountability, fairness and accessibility.

The award given to SM Prime is a reflection of the company's commitment to good corporate governance and shareholder value as well as a strong track record of transparency and communication with investors.

In spite of the continuing Asian crisis, SM Prime shows robust growth and continues with current expansion plans of building two new malls each year.

Globelines
Payments & Services
"We're delighted to serve you!"
DAISY, Center Head
Globelines
Because you are important to us, we made it more convenient for you to avail of our services. We have 33 Globelines Payments and Services centers strategically located in Luzon and the Visayas.

Our trained personnel aim to give you total satisfaction -- to effectively respond to all your Globelines needs: line applications, bill payments, line transfers, value-added services and features, repair, prepaid cards, etc.

Visit the GPS center nearest you. We'd be most delighted to serve you!

[LUZON] METRO MANILA: PARK SQUARE 2 (Opens February) GF Park Square Bldg., Ayala Center, Makati City • **SM MEGAMALL** (Opens June) 4F SM Megamall B, Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City • **GLOBE TELECOM PLAZA** (Opens April) Globe Telecom Plaza, corner Pioneer and Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City • **MARIKINA** 282 A. Bonifacio Ave., Pascual Alcantara Bldg., Brgy. de la Peña, Marikina City • **CAVITE: BACOOR** General Tirona Highway, Brgy. Dulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite • **MOLINO** GF EVY Corp. Bldg., Molino Road, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite • **BATANGAS: LEMERY** (Opens February) CJ Bldg., Independencia St., Lemery, Batangas • **BOLBOK** Diversion Extension Road, Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City, Batangas • **FIESTA MALL** B10b Bldg., Ground Flr., Fiesta World Mall, Barrio Marauoy, Lipa, Batangas • **MINDORO: CALAPAN** GF Fernaren Bldg., M. Leuterio St., San Vicente, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro • **(VISAYAS) CEBU: AYALA CENTER CEBU** GF South Entrance, Paseo Marina, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City • **SM CITY CEBU** (Opens March) 2nd Level SM City Cebu, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City • **BOGO** Fernan St., Bogo, Cebu • **CARCAR** R. Nellas St., Poblacion 3, Carcar, Cebu • **MANDAUE** GF Khuan's Bldg., National Highway, Ibabao, Mandaue City • **PARDO** Prince Warehouse Club, Bulacao, Pardo, Cebu City • **TOLEDO** 2F Nesbel & Sons Bldg., R. Rodriguez St., Toledo City • **BOHOL: TAGBILARAN** Door 5, EB Gallares Bldg., Carlos P. Garcia Ave., Tagbilaran City • **UBAY** N. Reyes St., Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol • **TUBIGON** (Opens March) • **NEGROS ORIENTAL: DUMAGUETE** GF Sol y Mar Bldg., corner Rizal Boulevard & San Juan St., Dumaguete City • **TANJAY** Magallanes St., Tanjay City • **NEGROS OCCIDENTAL: BACOLOD** 27 Lacson St., Mandalangan, Bacolod City • **SAGAY** (Opens February) Maranon St., Sagay City, Negros Occidental • **HINIGARAN** corner Rizal and Aguinaldo Sts., Hinigaran, Negros Occidental • **PANAY: ILOILO** 2F Gaisano City, La Paz, Iloilo City • **POTOTAN** Teresa Magbanua St., Pototan, Iloilo • **ROXAS** R. Gomez cor. Legaspi Sts., Roxas City • **KALIBO** Archbishop Reyes St., Kalibo, Aklan • **SAN JOSE** T. Fornier St., San Jose, Antique • **LEYTE: ORMOC** MFT Bldg., Real St., Ormoc City • **TACLOBAN** 22 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City • **MAASIN** Maasin Port Terminal Commercial Complex, Demeterio St., Agbao, Maasin

GLOBE TELECOM
ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC.
A wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom, Inc.
Globelines is a trademark used by Isla Communications Co., Inc. under license from Globe Telecom, Inc.

SSS, UK firm to develop QC property

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Social Security System has tied up with UK-based property expert EC Harris for a build-operate-transfer project that will develop the pension fund's four-hectare prime property in Quezon City into a mixed-use complex worth about P5.4 billion.

The concept for the new SSS corporate tower was submitted by the pension fund to the National Economic and Development Authority recently as an unsolicited proposal, Neda assistant director general Ruben Reinoso said.

Assuming that all the documents submitted were sufficient, Reinoso said it would take the Neda-led Investment Coordination Committee four to eight weeks to evaluate the project.

Under the BOT law, proponents are required to seek the approval of the ICC and in the case of unsolicited proposals, a Swiss challenge is mandated to determine if the pricing is reasonable.

The plan is to develop the idle property on East Avenue corner Edsa into an SSS Center that will host a twin-tower structure that will become the pension fund's new headquarters.

Also part of the project being packaged by EC Harris is the redevelopment of SSS' existing 12-story headquarters also on East Avenue into a new hospital for members.

The SSS, a pension fund servicing private sector employees, had been in talks with the foreign group for the property project as early as 1999. SSS president Corazon dela Paz, who earlier talked about plans to put up the SSS Center, had said the pension fund would not spend a single centavo on the project. She said the SSS would have its property as its contribution to the prospective joint venture.

The SSS, which has been forced to dip into its reserves last year to pay claims that exceeded by P3 billion the total contributions collected during the period, has been rationalizing the use of its properties in the metropolis.

EC Harris is a leading international consultant specializing in real estate, infrastructure and construction projects. It employs 2,000 people and maintains 40 offices in over 20 different countries. The firm has worked on projects in more than 80 countries and turns over consultancy fees in excess of £110 million a year.

Gov't drive vs illegal LPG trade expands coverage

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recently issued a stern warning against traders in Visayas and Mindanao suspected of being involved in the illegal refilling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders amid reports of the proliferation of the racket in these regions.

The NBI said it would focus on the Visayas and Mindanao its nationwide crackdown on illegal LPG trade in the face of mounting complaints from communities and local governments. Residents in these areas expressed fear that their neighborhoods were being exposed to serious risks posed by illegal LPG refillers.

The NBI also said it had received reports that illegal LPG outlets were selling underfilled cylinders. These traders say their products were cheaper alternatives but were actually underweight, thus cheating unscrupulous consumers in Visayas and Mindanao, the NBI said.

Earlier, the NBI vowed to relentlessly pursue complaints filed before the justice department versus several firms suspected of engaging in the business of illegal refilling of LPG cylinders.

SUBIC BAY OUTINGS
for COMPANIES • SCHOOLS
and GOVERNMENT OFFICES
Amidst forest, seaviews, and flowering gardens

INCLUDES OVERNIGHT STAY IN FULLY FURNISHED SINGLE OR DOUBLE ROOM SUITES WITH EITHER TWIN OR QUADRUPLE SHARING, PLUS 3 FULL NOURISHING MEALS, AND FREE USE OF FUNCTION ROOM WITH COMPLETE SEMINAR FACILITIES. UNRESTRICTED USE OF 3 SWIMMING POOLS, EXERCISE GYM, & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

AS LOW AS P795 PER PAX (ALL INCLUSIVE)

CALL CROWN PEAK HOTELS: UPPER CUBI, SUBIC FREEPORT;
(047) 252-3144; (047) 252-6658; 0919 313-1373; 0918 929-5052; 0918 5069

Join the
Graphics & Publishing
Seminar Series

Increase Your Productivity. Sharpen Your Skills. Learn with the Master.

March 27-29, 2003
AIM ACCEED Conference Center
Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts.
Legaspi Village, Makati City,
Philippines

Who Should Attend:

Graphic designers • digital artists • photographers • publishers • commercial printers • webmasters • multimedia specialists • art directors • animators • layout artists • print managers • IT professionals • editors • advertising • marketing executives and corporate communicators.

Seminar Topics/Programme

March 27, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Learning Photoshop and Its Application in Imaging for Print & Web
- Digital Photography & Photoshop Techniques for Print & Web

March 28, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Web Design with Dreamweaver MX
- Web Animation Techniques with Flash MX

March 29, 2003, 9:30am - 5:00pm
- Learning 3D Studio Max 4.0
- Learning Maya 4.5

Organized by: fmi www.fmi.com.ph
Sponsors: Canon Softrigger Interactive WEB

REGISTER NOW! Limited Seats Available

To sign-up
Call: (632) 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893 • Fax: (632) 896-0637, 890-2101
Email: fiera@info.com.ph, visit website: http://www.fmi.com.ph

IT consortium unveils travel guide via SMS

A CONSORTIUM of IT firms have developed a travel information service via mobile phone short messaging service (SMS) or text messaging.

MapCentral and CyberSoft Geoinformatics Inc. (CIGI) have developed the WOW Philippines Finder. The service offers accurate and complete information on tourism facilities, services and attractions in the country through text messaging.

"The product is designed to empower tourists—Filipinos and foreigners alike—to travel to any of the country's 7,100 destinations with the convenience of information that can be provided via simple text messaging," MIC Holdings president and CEO Philip E. Juico said.

MIC Holdings holds the controlling interest in MapCentral and CIGI. The product has already received the endorsement of the Department of Tourism (DOT). WOW, the tag coined by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for the Philippines, stands for "world of wonders."

"WOW Philippines Finder makes traveling around the Philippines much simpler. We believe this is a big step in boosting Philippine tourism," Juico said.

Mobile phone users who want to avail of the service just need to type "WOW <space><type of attraction or facility><space> in <space><location>" and send to 288 for Smart and Talk N Text users or 2958 for Globe users.

GOINGS-ON

LCF seminar

LEADING personalities in corporate social responsibility programs are slated to speak at the League of Corporate Foundations' seminar-workshop series on Friday, Feb. 28, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bataan Room, 32/F Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

The speakers are Vicky Garchitorena, Ayala Foundation head and LCF chair; lawyer Louie Pangilinan, president of Fort Bonifacio Development Foundation; Bobby Calingo, Mirant Philippines Foundation executive director; Nicole Tria Tirona of Andres Soriano Foundation; Fely Soledad, executive director of Philippine Council for NGO Certification, and Art Cariaga, LCF executive director. The seminar will have as its guest speaker Saturnino G. Belen, chair of Bato-Balani Foundation and president of First Asia Venture Capital and Fastech Synergy Ltd.

Petron Foundation's Malu Emi, who is also president of LCF, is hosting the training seminar organized by the training and research committee under Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Zuellig Foundation executive director. Inquiries and reservations may be coursed through the LCF secretariat, 892-9189 and 892-9084. Please look for Art Cariaga or Pia Bernal.

Award for SM Prime

SM Prime was ranked first among Philippine corporations in the corporate governance category by Asset Magazine in its December 2002 issue. The Hong Kong-based publication is one of the leading finance magazines for Asian issuers and global investors specializing in the Asian market.

The annual Best in Corporate Governance was conducted by Asset Benchmark Survey, a Hong Kong-based research institution, tapping exclusively institutional investors. Survey period was from May 2002 to September 2002 in which 145 institutional investment houses participated. The criteria used was: transparency, accountability, fairness and accessibility.

The award given to SM Prime is a reflection of the company's commitment to good corporate governance and shareholder value as well as a strong track record of transparency and communication with investors.

In spite of the continuing Asian crisis, SM Prime shows robust growth and continues with current expansion plans of building two new malls each year.

Globelines
Payments & Services
"We're delighted to serve you!"
DAISY, Center Head
Globelines

Because you are important to us, we made it more convenient for you to avail of our services. We have 33 Globelines Payments and Services centers strategically located in Luzon and the Visayas.

Our trained personnel aim to give you total satisfaction -- to effectively respond to all your Globelines needs: line applications, bill payments, line transfers, value-added services and features, repair, prepaid cards, etc.

Visit the GPS center nearest you.
We'd be most delighted to serve you!

(LUZON) METRO MANILA: PARK SQUARE 2 (Opens February) GF Park Square Bldg., Ayala Center, Makati City • SM MEGAMALL (Opens June) 4F SM Megamall B, Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City • GLOBE TELECOM PLAZA (Opens April) Globe Telecom Plaza, corner Pioneer and Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City • MARIKINA 382 A. Bonifacio Ave., Pascual Alcantara Bldg., Brgy. de la Peña, Marikina City • CAVITE: BACOOR General Trias Highway, Brgy. Bulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite • MOLINO GF EVY Corp. Bldg., Molino Road, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite • BATANGAS: LEMERY (Opens February) EJ Bldg., Independencia St., Lemery, Batangas • BOLBOK Diversion Extension Road, Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City, Batangas • FIESTA MALL B10b Bldg., Ground Flr., Fiesta World Mall, Barrio Marauoy, Lipa, Batangas • MINDORO: CALAPAN GF Fenaren Bldg., M. Leuterio St., San Vicente, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro • (VISAYAS) CEBU: AYALA CENTER CEBU GF South Entrance, Paseo Marina, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City • SM CITY CEBU (Opens March) 2nd Level SM City Cebu, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City • BOGO Feman St., Bogo, Cebu • CARCAR R. Nellas St., Poblacion 3, Carcar, Cebu • MANDAUE GF Khuan's Bldg., National Highway, Ibabao, Mandaue City • PARDO Prince Warehouse Club, Bulacao, Pardo, Cebu City • TOLEDO 2F Nesbel & Sons Bldg., R. Rodriguez St., Toledo City • BOHOL: TAGBILARAN Door 5, EB Gallares Bldg., Carlos P. Garcia Ave., Tagbilaran City • UBAY N. Reyes St., Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol • TUBIGON (Opens March) • NEGROS ORIENTAL: DUMAGUETE GF Sol y Mar Bldg., corner Rizal Boulevard & San Juan St., Dumaguete City • TANJAY Magallanes St., Tanjay City • NEGROS OCCIDENTAL: BACOLOD 27 Lacson St., Mandalangan, Bacolod City • SAGAY (Opens February) Maranon St., Sagay City, Negros Occidental • HINIGARAN corner Rizal and Aguinaldo Sts., Hinigaran, Negros Occidental • PANAY: ILOILO 2F Gaisano City, La Paz, Iloilo City • POTOTAN Teresa Magbanua St., Pototan, Iloilo • ROXAS R. Gomez cor. Legaspi Sts., Roxas City • KALIBO Archbishop Reyes St., Kalibo, Aklan • SAN JOSE T. Fornier St., San Jose, Antique • LEYTE: ORMOC MFT Bldg., Real St., Ormoc City • TACLOBAN 22 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City • MAASIN Maasin Port Terminal Commercial Complex, Demeterio St., Agbao, Maasin

GLOBE TELECOM ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC.
A wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom, Inc.
Globelines is a trademark used by Isla Communications Co., Inc. under license from Globe Telecom, Inc.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Locators owe SBMA P5.5B in rentals, utility charges

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A government fact-finding team here uncovered some P5.5 billion worth of debts incurred by various investors and locators inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

In a report submitted to the Office of the President on Monday, the team—composed of officials from the Ombudsman, Finance and Malacañang—found that as of July 31, 2002, majority of the 564 listed investors here had been delinquent in their payment of rentals, lease, water and electric power bills amounting to P5.55 billion.

Deputy Administrator Jesus Beringuela of Subic Bay-Metropolitan Authority, however, clarified that the obligations of freeport-based investors amounted to P2 billion only.

These were incurred from delayed payments of lease rentals, power consumption and other incidental charges.

Beringuela said the SBMA would not want an incident similar to what had happened to workers of Mimosa Leisure Estate at the Clark Special Economic Zone to happen in Subic.

"We allowed locators with huge arrears affected by the regional economic crisis to come up with their payment re-structuring proposals so they could continue their operations and more importantly, so that workers could stay in their jobs," he said.

Records showed that the top delinquent payers include the Financial Building Corp., Invest Building Corp. (FBC) and Home Guaranty Insurance with total arrears amounting to P550,087,254.

FBC had proposed to pay its arrears in kind, including an Apec villa worth P45 million, four condominium units at the posh EdgeWater Condotel amounting to P18 million and a helicopter costing P35 million.

The proposed payment scheme was submitted for approval to Malacañang.

Hotel and casino operator, the Legend International Resorts Ltd., along with the Legend Health and Medical Center, ranked second among investors with outstanding financial obligations reaching P485 million.

The Legend management, however, disputed the computation that was based on book of accounts submitted by the SBMA accounting department. A negotiation to settle this dispute is still in progress.

Other top delinquent investors include the Subic Water and Sewerage System Inc. with P153 million arrears, the Subic Bay Development and Management Corp. Inc., with P133 million and the business firms of hotelier and duty-free operator, Anthony Trillo, with P127 million.

Trillo operates the Crown Peak Garden Hotel, Subic Fisherman's Wharf and the PX Duty Free store.

The P1.4 billion-arrears incurred by these investors constitute more than 55 percent of the total P2.1 billion worth of collectibles of the SBMA.

SBMA Director Sergio Cruz said a task force formed in 2002 was able to negotiate the collection of P830 million, including payment in cash, kind and issuances of post-dated checks to cover future payments.

Edith Lim of the SBMA accounting department said the accounts receivables of SBMA significantly increased in 1998 when the economic crisis hit the Asian region. Earlier, the group also uncovered at least 32 demolished buildings allegedly donated to various government units in Central Luzon but was found being sold allegedly to a scrap dealer in Hagonoy, Bulacan, by a former SBMA official.

Many of the demolished buildings were assessed as "still habitable." *Cesar Villa and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov't help sought in addressing furniture industry problems

FURNITURE makers are urging the government to address the industry's difficulties in establishing a sufficient raw material supply base that could hamper its goal of hitting $1 billion in exports by next year.

Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) president Jose Leo Caparas said the current supply and quality of raw materials would not be enough to meet the industry's requirements for wood, rattan and bamboo.

Caparas cited the current supply of 730,000 cubic meters of wood from natural forests and tree plantations was just a third of what the industry needs yearly. He said furniture makers had to compete with other forest-based industries such as housing, paper, plywood and handicraft sectors for the meager domestic supply.

To meet the industry's requirements, the CFIP proposed that the government tear down several barriers that have impeded the flow of raw materials from the harvesting area to the furniture shops.

These include the red tape involved in getting harvesting permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the lack of information and legal documents in transporting logs; and the unscrupulous personnel that man the check points.

CFIP said the government should also provide technical support to the industry such as maximizing the benefits of industrial tree plantation; providing kiln drying and saw milling facilities; adopting a lumber grading system; and facilitating the transfer of technology. The CFIP said this could be improved if the government provided the industry with credit support to help them retool and modernize their operations.

Caparas also pushed for the deregulation of government policies on industrial tree plantation to encourage more people to use idle lands in planting trees.

The Philippine furniture export market, according to Caparas, started showing early signs of recovery after a negative performance in 2001. The industry recorded $287.4 million in revenue as of November last year, an increase of 5.6 percent over 2001 receipts of $249.5 million.

The US continues to be the biggest market for Philippine furniture, importing as much as 66 percent of the Philippines' total exports. As of November 2002, export to the US was valued at $190.82 million, followed by Japan with $18.11 million, Great Britain and Northern Ireland with $7.87 million each and Australia with $6.1 million. The biggest increase, however, was posted by new markets in the Middle East. Exports to Saudi Arabia was valued at $5.86 million while that to the UAE was placed at $4.4 million, growing by 30.68 and 21.23 percent respectively over the previous year's levels.

Wood furniture, which began to dominate the export market in 1998, continued to sustain its growth at $110.66 million.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE FUJITSU

Personal

LIFEBOOK

LifeBook P2110

• Transmeta Crusoe™ TM5800 (867MHz) • 512KB L2 cache • 133MHz System Bus Clock • 256MB SDRAM, max. 384MB (DIMM, PC133) • 30GB HDD • 10.6" Wide Super XGA TFT Colour (max. 1280 x 768 pixels) • 8MB VRAM with 3D Graphics Accelerator • Integrated V.90 Modem & 10/100Mbps Base-T LAN • Bluetooth™ PC card option • Combo Drive (DVD & CD-R/RW) replaceable with Device Bay options • QuickPoint with scroll button • Type I or II x 1 slot • Approx. 3.6 hrs.* (Std. battery pack: Li-Ion 10.8V 1900mAH)/ Approx. 7.2 hrs.* (Optional extended battery pack: Li-Ion 10.8V 3800mAH) • Microsoft® Windows® XP Home • Weighs approx. 1.5kg (with Combo Drive)

*Actual battery life may vary depending on use, configuration and system load.

Fujitsu PCs use genuine Windows® Operating Systems
www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI)
2/F United Life Bldg., 837 A. Arnaiz Avenue Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
Tel: +63 (2) 812-4001 Fax: +63 (2) 817-7576 www.ph.fujitsu.com

THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY:
Parksquare 1 Makati Tel: 8106766/8105090
SM Megamall Tel: 6342437/6331594
Shangri-La Tel: 6374162-63
Tutuban Tel: 2531444
Southmall Tel: 8000508/8000512
Virramall Greenhills Tel: 7210957
Sta. Lucia East Grandmall Tel: 6817334-35
Festival Supermall Tel: 8503709-11
SM Fairview Tel: 4187151/4193512
SM Bacoor Tel: (046) 4170922/(046) 4170840
SM Megamall Tel: 6331634-25
Alabang Town Center Tel: 7723254
ELECTROWORLD:
Parksquare 1 Makati Tel: 8132776/8123868
SM City Tel: 9240034/14
SM Southmall Tel: 8000404/8000408
FUTURE LINK:
SM City Tel: 9252628
MICROSTATION
SM North Tel: 9283502
Robinson's Galleria Tel: 6371473-74
Shangri-La Tel: 6372785-86
ARX
SM North EDSA Tel: 4262216-18
Robinson's Galleria Tel: 6333920/6320991
COMPLINK
Parksquare MC Tel: 8931491

Designed for Microsoft® Windows® XP

Microsoft and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.
BLUETOOTH is a trademark owned by its proprietor and used by Fujitsu under license.

Bitter foes ...

From page B1

pleted or is terminated. An increase in termination rates can either be passed on to consumers in the form of higher call rates or shouldered by the carrier, with call rates remaining unchanged but with less revenue for the same amount of traffic.

From 8 US cents for landlines and 12 US cents for cellular, local carriers sought to increase termination rates to 12 US cents for fixed line and 16 US cents for mobile.

Foreign carriers initially raised their eyebrows at the proposed rate increase but soon agreed that this was but reasonable and fair, according to an industry source.

"When we first discussed the process of adjusting rates, everyone did not agree to them. However, after they saw how reasonable the rates were, telcos worldwide started to agree," the source said.

He explained that as of Feb. 1, the implementation date of the new rates, around 50 international carriers had already agreed to the adjusted rates. To date, more than 100 carriers all over the world have accepted the new termination rates.

AT&T, however, remained staunch in not accepting the new rates. While holding on to this position, it also began complaining that calls from its network in the United States were being blocked by carriers here. This, it said, led to the filing of a petition with the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC petition actually started a whole squabble of sorts.

Prelude to a war

In its petition, AT&T alleged that local carriers Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecom Inc., Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., Smart Communications Inc. and Subic Telecom were engaging in "whipsawing", or pitting US carriers against each other to get better deals.

Together with another US carrier, Worldcom Inc., AT&T sought an FCC order that would stop this alleged "whipsawing" activity by granting a relief to all US carriers from making settlement payments to their partners here.

"AT&T and Worldcom have requested that the commission take action to protect US carriers in their negotiations on the US-Philippines route from 'whipsawing' and prevent further network disruptions and harm to US consumers. Specifically, AT&T has requested that the commission take urgent action to prevent further 'whipsawing', including interim relief. AT&T and Worldcom request that the commission prohibit US carriers from making payments to the Philippine carriers and PLDT, respectively, until international service is fully restored," according to the public notice of AT&T's petition to the FCC.

After filing its petition with the US FCC, AT&T then asked the local carriers to sit down and negotiate new termination rate agreements with it. While negotiating, AT&T asked the carriers to stop blocking calls coming from its network in the United States.

What disruption?

Local carriers, however, are insisting that circuits connecting their networks with that of AT&T remain open. Globe, Digitel, BayanTel and Smart have all denied allegations of blocking calls.

"In the past and up to now, our circuits are open. AT&T has the option whether or not to course their traffic through us, but our lines are open," Globe senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said.

Smart legal, external and carrier relations head Rogelio Quevedo, Digitel senior vice president for legal and inter-carriers services William Pamintuan and BayanTel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa all said the same thing.

Despite this, AT&T remains firm in its appeal for the Philippine telecom players to open their lines. *(To be continued)*

Gov't set to review economic targets

THE CONTINUED increase in crude prices has prompted the Development Budget Coordination Committee to consider revisiting the government's economic and fiscal targets for this year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the Cabinet-level DBCC would meet this week to assess whether there was a need to adjust the targets although changes, if any, were not to happen immediately.

Boncodin said the DBCC had asked its technical working group to simulate how rising fuel prices would affect the 2003 targets.

"In our review, we have to analyze if there is a basis to revise the numbers," Boncodin said.

Crude prices have increased by about 42 percent to $37 per barrel, or way above the government's assumption of $26.35 per barrel.

The DBCC had set a growth target of 4.2 to 5.2 percent for the gross domestic product; 4.5 to 5.8 percent for the gross national product; 4.5 to 5.5 percent for the inflation rate; 5-8 percent for exports, and 6 to 9 percent for imports. It was projecting an average peso-dollar rate of 52-54 to $1 and an average 91-day treasury bill rate of 8 to 9 percent.

The budget deficit this year was projected to reach P202 billion or 4.7 percent of the GDP.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the projected inflation rate would be met for as long as crude prices would not increase by more than 66 percent.

Coming up with a sensitivity analysis does not necessarily mean that the DBCC would revise the macroeconomic numbers, the budget chief pointed out.

"At this point, it is too late to make adjustments since the budget sponsorship is scheduled in the Senate. Again, its too early to revise since the existing numbers were adjusted only in November," Boncodin said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PSE seeks exemption from SEC requirement

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is asking the Securities and Exchange Commission not to subject the sale of its shares of stock to prior approval of the SEC.

In a letter to the market regulation department of the SEC, the PSE said there was no legal basis in subjecting the sale of the bourse's shares to this requirement.

Although the Securities Regulation Code provides for such a requirement, the PSE said it was applicable only to transactions that would bring the buyer's holdings to levels exceeding the beneficial ownership limit provided by the same law.

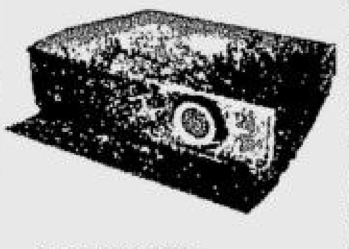
The Securities Regulation Code prohibits any person to own or control more than 5 percent of the voting rights of an exchange. It also bars an industry or business group from owning more than 20 percent of these voting rights.

This according to the PSE, means that the requirement should be applied only in deals that will likely violate the beneficial ownership limit.

The PSE says deals that will not exceed the beneficial ownership limit should not be required to secure prior approval of the SEC.

•SALES •RENTALS •REPAIR •DESIGN

STUDIO EXPERIENCE
Matinee 1HD
Home Cinema Projector



PROMO PRICE
P 99,998

800:1 CONTRAST RATIO

SHORT THROW LENS

NATURAL FLESH TONES

Big Screen Entertainment Made Easy.

Enjoy big screen entertainment in the cozy comfort of your home. No more waiting in long ticket lines, fumbling for a seat in the dark, or sticky floors. The **Matinee 1HD** will change all that. Picture yourself lounging on your sofa, snuggling with those closest to you and watching your favorite movie. Munch on popcorn made the way you like it, sip your beverage of choice and settle in for an enjoyable movie-watching experience. The Matinee 1HD handles more that just DVD's. Imagine ecstatic faces playing video games or watching the Big Game on a 10-foot wide screen. The Matinee 1HD, bringing big screen excitement to your home at a matinee price.

BOXLIGHT®
Presenting a Better Way
19332 Powder Hill Place
Poulsbo, WA, USA 98370

CALL 8111668–69 TEXT (0917)8901688

www.boxlight.com

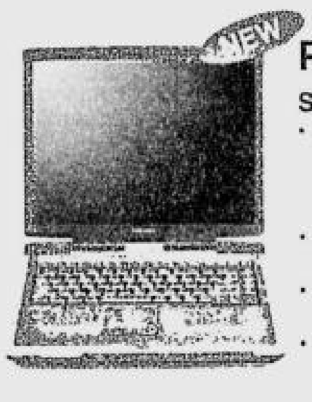
Choose freedom.

No.1 Notebook Computer in the Philippines
(Source: IDC Asia/Pacific, PC Tracker Q3 2002)

First Class quality
Economy class price

P59,995
Battery & carrying case included

Satellite 1110-A210
- Mobile Intel® Celeron® processor 1.8GHz, 400MHz PSB
- 256MB PC2100 SDRAM
- 14.1" XGA TFT color display
- 20GB Hard Disk Drive
- Built-in 24X CD-ROM Drive and FDD
- ATI Mobility Radeon graphics, 16MB DDR VRAM
- Built-in Stereo Speakers with 3D Sound Support
- 56Kbps Modem and Ethernet LAN
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition



P115,000

Satellite 2410-A742
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 1.80GHz-M supporting Enhanced Intel® SpeedStep® Technology
- 256MB PC2100 DDR SDRAM, expandable to 1024MB
- 40GB S.M.A.R.T. HDD with built-in HDD shock absorber
- NVIDIA GeForce 4 420 graphics with 32MB DDR VRAM
- 15.0" XGA TFT display
- Built in CDRW/DVD-ROM and Floppy Disk Drives
- Wireless LAN (802.11b) with optional WLAN module kit
- i.LINK (IEEE 1394), 3 x USB ports, Fast Infrared (4Mbps), TV-out
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

TOSHIBA

Authorized Distributor:
Tricom Dynamics, Inc. www.tricom.com.ph • MAKATI: [illegible] • CEBU: [illegible] • DAVAO: [illegible] • CAGAYAN DE ORO: [illegible]

Authorized Dealers:
• ELECTROWORLD [illegible] • COMPLINK MARKETING, INC. [illegible] • THE BRAIN COMPUTER CORP. SAN JUAN: [illegible] • SILICON VALLEY ALABANG: [illegible] • ARX COMPUTER CENTER ROBINSON'S GALLERIA: [illegible]

Authorized Corporate Resellers:
• F.A. TKEE: [illegible] • MICROGENESIS BUSINESS SYSTEMS: [illegible] • MICROPHASE ENTERPRISE CO.: [illegible] • ZENSHIN SYSTEMS CORP.: [illegible] • COMPULAB TECHNOLOGY CORP.: [illegible]

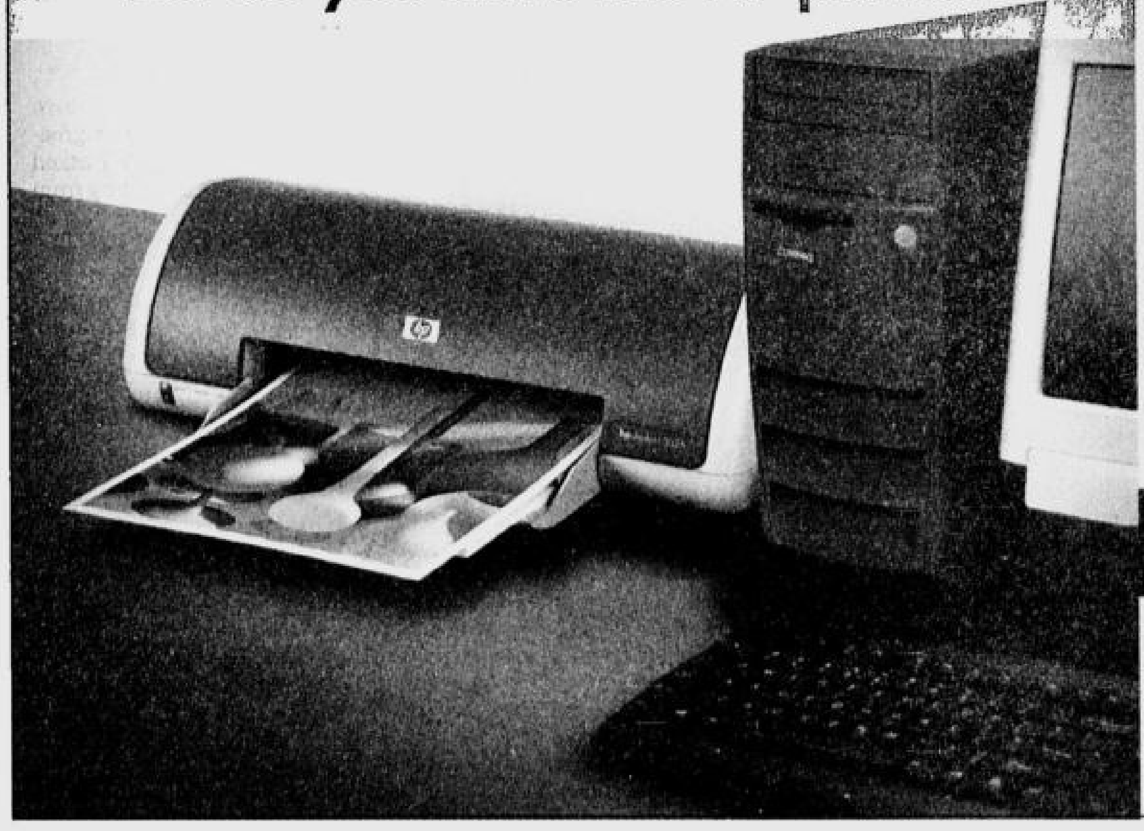
Toshiba Regional Office:
Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd [illegible]

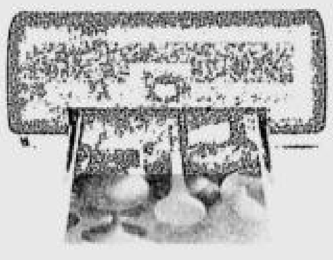
[illegible]

intel inside
celeron®

Now Available
Online warranty registration
[illegible]
pc.toshiba-asia.com

Sure you got a deal on a PC.
But do you have the HP printer?





From February 22 to April 30, 2003, the HP Deskjet 3325 is bundled with special PC packages. So make sure you get great value. Ask your favorite dealer for the HP printer. Because whatever PC brand you buy, the big deals come with HP.

hp Deskjet 3325
- HP PhotoREt 3 colour layering technology
- Up to 8/6 ppm (black/colour)
- Up to1200 x 600 optimized dpi

SRP PhP 2,995

hp®
invent

For more information, call (632) 867-3557
Or toll-free 1-800-1331-4488 or email ph.contact@hp.com

Get an additional P250 off on original HP inkjet print cartridges (single or twin pack). Simply peel off the promo coupon from the printer box and present it to the authorized HP dealer where you got the printer. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0177, Series of 2003.

Participating resellers : Accent Micro Products 634-2417, 927-7330 • Asianic/Acrotech 781-8245 to 48 • Electroworld 813-6154 • Enigma (074) 446-1629/ 30 • FAT KEE Computer Systems 727-3771 to 78 • Infoworx 897-5147, 897-5279 • MDR Microware Sales (032) 255-4415, 254-5382 • Microtech Corp. 242-7536 • NT Computer 705-1743, 927-2579 • PC Corner 772-4641 • PC Express 718-2828/ 718-3838 • Prodata 723-0030, 414-4336/47 • Silicon Valley 812- 6734/ 43 • TCA 636-5515 • Thinking Tools (032) 254-2227 • TQM 526-4503 • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. 929-0411, 892-2222 • Wispy 899-0351

©2003 Hewlett-Packard Company

Rates were rammed, AT&T says

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN carrier AT&T Corp. has claimed that it was not even given a chance to negotiate and was instead presented with an "ultimatum" to accept the higher termination rates slapped by local carriers on Feb. 1 or lose its Philippine connections.

In a statement issued on Saturday, AT&T said foreign carriers "were not given an opportunity to negotiate the proposed increase in termination rates."

"Instead," it said, "we were presented with an ultimatum: Accept the rate increase or your traffic to the Philippines will not be accepted."

It added that when it refused to accept the "unreasonable unilateral rate hike and requested negotiations to agree upon a fair price," local carriers immediately disrupted inbound AT&T traffic.

AT&T said its call data records showed a dramatic drop in direct call traffic into the Philippines starting Feb. 1.

"The key issue is the disruption of service for Filipinos, businesses and other callers who are trying to call the Philippines from overseas locations for reasonable rates. Bottom line: AT&T's calls are being prevented from being completed into the Philippines due to actions of carriers seeking a large increase in the costs to complete our calls to the Philippines," AT&T said.

According to AT&T records, the number of calls completed dropped to almost zero on the networks of two Philippine carriers on Feb. 1, while another carrier almost zeroed the American carrier a week later.

AT&T explained it was constantly monitoring the effectiveness of its ability to terminate calls in the networks of foreign carriers through a method that allowed it to determine how many calls were being blocked by a foreign carrier.

Local carriers have denied blocking calls coming from AT&T's network, as well as AT&T's claims that it has expressed the intention to negotiate with them concerning the new rates.

In an earlier interview, Globe Telecom Inc. senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said Globe was not blocking calls coming from AT&T and that it was AT&T's decision whether it would course its traffic through Globe.

ang tan golf
Club & Shares, inc.
SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
connie ang
24 Hours Tels: 253-0008 • 256-6001
2563108 • 0918355087

FRANCISCO V. DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS, INC.
YOUR TRUSTED SPECIALIST BROKER SINCE 1982 • SEC License #2115
BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF FEBRUARY 21, 2003
ASKED PRICE BID PRICE
PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE - PLEASE INQUIRE

MAKATI GOLF CLUB
The Country's First Fully-Automated Driving Range
offers a
"COMPANY DAY"
FREE HALF-DAY USE OF DRIVING RANGE
TO INTERESTED CORPORATIONS.
Hurry! For a limited time only!
CALL NOW at 840-1761 of FAX at 894-3021.

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of February 24, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)		1,400,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,550,000
Baguio Country Club	600,000	650,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	240,000
Canlubang	-	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Club Filipino	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	185,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	275,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	13,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,200,000	11,250,000
Manila Polo	2,400,000	2,650,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	500,000	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	600,000	730,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	600,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	80,000	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	100,000	130,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	325,000
Montemar (Individual)	25,000	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	450,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Punta Fuego	-	500,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Rockwell	Please Call	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,225,000	1,500,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	780,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	130,000	160,000
Valley Golf	250,000	260,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,300,000	-

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE
For more information, please call:
ALABANG 8508223• Fax 7721817 • Mobile 0917-8408231
MAKATI 8401761• Fax 8943021/ 7507894 • Mobile 0917-8408207
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
GET OUR LATEST CLUB SHARE QUOTES BY TEXTING
GGA HELP
to 2333 for GLOBE Handyphone subscribers
or 288 for Smart Gold & Buddy subscribers
Visit us at www.ggaclubshares.com

Waterfront to spend ₱150M to refurbish Manila Pavilion

By Doris C. Dumlao

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc., a company controlled by "plastics king" William Gatchalian, is earmarking some P150 million to refurbish its newly acquired property—the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Company officials are hoping that the Pavilion will help lift Waterfront's revenues from its hotels by about 40 to 50 percent.

While an integration plan is already in place, however, Waterfront has yet to deal with a case filed by the parent firm of the Pavilion's previous owner, Acesite Philippines Hotel Corp.

Acesite Ltd., a British Virgin Island-based company, has sued Equitable PCI Bank Inc. for transferring Acesite Philippines' shares to Waterfront.

Acesite Philippines used some 74.89 million of its shares—equivalent to a 75-percent stake in the company—as collateral for a loan it got from Equitable in 1993.

The bank foreclosed on these shares and sold them to Waterfront last week at P1.66 each, or about P124 million, against the hotel's book value of P1 billion.

Waterfront executive vice president Rexlon Gatchalian insisted his company's acquisition of the shares was done in good faith, and that Waterfront was ready to integrate the Pavilion to its operations.

Waterfront corporate secretary Arthur Ponsaran insisted that all transactions concerning Waterfront's acquisition of a majority stake in Acesite Philippines complied with the rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange and Securities and Exchange Commission.

"As a publicly listed corporation, Waterfront will not enter into any anomalous or illegal transactions, as this may affect our standing with our shareholders as well as the PSE," he said.

Waterfront has no plans to de-list Acesite Philippines from the stock exchange, although the company itself is already a listed company, Gatchalian said.

He said there was a lot work to be done to restore the four-star Pavilion, which used to be a five-star hotel, to its old glory. The hotel will be renamed "Waterfront Pavilion," he said.

"We have already commissioned architects, interior designers and master planners to start making preparations for the upgrading of Waterfront Pavilion," he said.

He said the renovation would cost about P100 million to P150 million.

Allied Bank set on getting rid of ₱12B in bad loans, assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

ALLIED Banking Corp. has said it is set on getting rid of some P5 billion to as much as P12 billion in bad loans and assets this year.

In a news briefing last week, Allied Bank president Reynaldo Maclang said the bank wanted to take advantage of the law on special purpose vehicles to lighten its load of bad loans and assets.

The law extends tax benefits to banks that will get rid of their unload non-performing assets through so-called special purpose vehicles.

Maclang said the amount of bad loans and assets that Allied Bank would dispose of would depend on the rules that would be approved.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has submitted to Congress a draft of the special-purpose vehicle law's implementing rules and regulations.

Maclang declined to make a forecast of Allied Bank's revenues this year.

"It's very difficult now to project what you will be at the end of the year because of the developments in the market. There is the threat of sanctions and the SPV bill waiting for the IRR. Just these two will have a big impact on the performance of the bank," Maclang said.

Allied Bank chalked up P1 billion in profits last year, roughly the same as the previous year's figure.

Non-interest income accounted for half of its net income.

Macland said the bank posted a significant growth in investments, loans went up and deposits recorded a very big increase.

For this year, he said the bank planned to increase its resources by 10 percent, adding it would focus on boosting its consumer products.

because the developments in the market, Last week, Allied Bank signed an agreement to acquire an 8-percent stake in New York Life Insurance Philippines and increase this stake to 25 percent over a period of time.

The investment would allow Allied Bank to cross-sell NYLIP's insurance products to its bank customers using its branch network.

Robinsons Bank income up 75%

ROBINSONS Savings Bank has reported that its income grew to P130 million last year from P74 million the previous year.

The income figure translates to a return on equity of 17.4 percent, making RSB to the country's second-highest thrift bank in terms of ROE.

RSB also had the lowest non-performing loans ratio of 3.64 percent among top thrift banks and boasts of a high NPL cover of 82 percent.

Total resources more than tripled to P6.235 billion, while deposits grew almost five times ending the year at P4.886 billion.

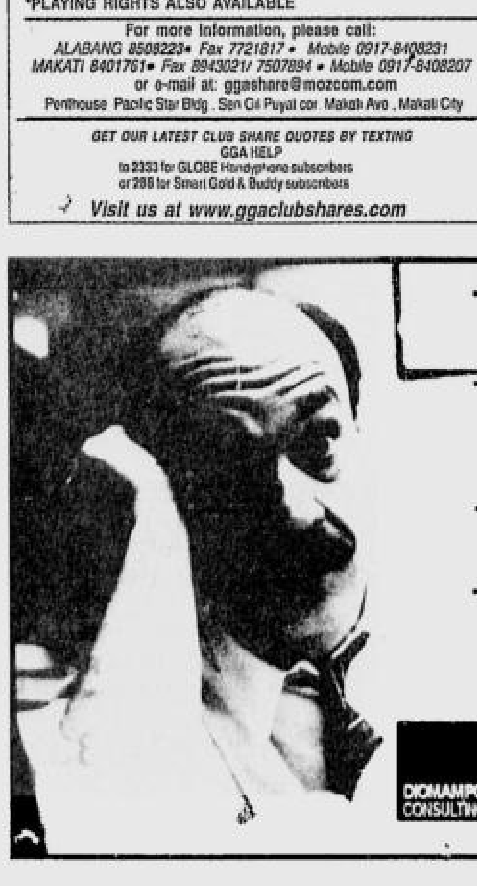
"The solid increase in income came at the heels of a well contained integration cost when the branches we acquired from ABN AMRO Savings Bank were put on stream," RSB president Reynold Gerongay said.

"Our goal is to become a formidable player in consumer banking. This will certainly leverage our parent company's (JG Summit Holdings Inc.'s) other retail businesses. But given this economic climate, the challenge for us moving forward is to cautiously deploy funds to higher yielding assets without losing sight of good credit judgment," Gerongay said.

RSB acquired 20 branches from ABN AMRO Savings Bank in June 2002, bringing its total branch network to 27.

RSB intends to open five more branches this year and go full blast on consumer lending.

RSB offers housing loans, auto loans, and personal loans. It will soon launch its in-house credit card accepted in all Robinsons malls nationwide.



DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM PAYING YOUR BANK LOANS?
IS YOUR BANK FORECLOSING OR HAS IT FORECLOSED YOUR COLLATERAL?
ARE YOU PAST DUE AND PAYING HIGH INTEREST RATES?
DO YOU NEED TO RESTRUCTURE YOUR LOANS?
WE CAN HELP YOU!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 • 8184480 • 8180730
Fax No. 8193294
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING

Businessmen . . .

From page B1

The BSP noted that 70 percent of the respondents pointed to stiff competition and insufficient demand as the primary factors that limited production and business activity during the survey period.

Other concerns raised by one-third of the sample firms were unclear economic policies, increasing interest rates, financial and labor problems, and poor access to credit.

"The increasing possibility of a war between a US-led coalition and Iraq, the rising oil prices, the weakening of the peso and the growing fiscal deficit could have made survey respondents less optimistic on the peso, borrowing rate, prices and the peso-dollar rate for the first and second quarters of 2003," said the BSP governor.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.20 4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000	
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.00	16.25	16	16	212,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	32.50	32.5	32.5	32.5	290,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.00	27	26.5	26.5	260,900
Philippine National Bank	24.50	24.5	24.5	24.5	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.50	16.5	16.5	16.5	14,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	.7400	.750.74	0.75	1,440,000	
Filipino Fund Inc	.3100	.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	.7100	.71	0.71	0.71	260,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	955.0	955	945	945	560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	8,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.4100	.42	0.37	0.37	7,010,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	535.0	535	530	530	6,110
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.1500	.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	.1800	.19	0.18	0.18	230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290.0	290	287.5	287.5	68,190
Philweb Corp.	.0100	.011	0.01	0.011	4,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.40	8.5	8.4	8.5	70,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	788,400
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	1,410,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.60	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9900	.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	219,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	357,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.25	15.75	16	137,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.50	58	57.5	58	489,600
San Miguel Corp. B	65.50	65.5	65.5	65.5	28,100
Vitarich Corp.	.3000	.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	.3400	.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.20	4.2	4.15	4.2	114,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.4	374,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.1700	.17	0.16	0.16	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5800	.6	0.58	0.6	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0050	.005	0.005	0.005	11,000,000
ATN Holdings, Inc.	2.20	2.2	2	2.2	46,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	.1500	.16	0.15	0.16	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.00	10	10	10	108,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.1200	.12	0.115	0.12	920,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.1100	.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.50	8.5	8.5	8.5	170,000
Ionics Inc.	.7000	.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	.5800	.58	0.58	0.58	1,800,000
Music Corp.	.1800	.18	0.175	0.18	220,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.10	3.1	3.1	3.1	175,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	.9500	.95	0.95	0.95	90,000
Tanduay Holdings, Inc.	3.10	3.1	3.1	3.1	15,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	.3400	.34	0.34	0.34	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat, Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
SPI Technologies, Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	221,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	.2900	.29	0.28	0.28	510,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.3000	.3	0.29	0.3	310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.4000	.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	12.00	12	12	12	200,000
Jollibee Warrants	15.75 15.75	15.5	15.5	21,200	
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	.0020	.002	0.002	0.002	4,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.70	4.7	4.6	4.6	1,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.1200	.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	.9000	.9	0.9	0.9	900,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	13,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.0220	.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	.0700	.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.20	5.2	5.2	5.2	2,102,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	.1900	.19	0.19	0.19	1,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	.2100	.22	0.21	0.215	820,000
Omico Corp.	.0020	.002	0.002	0.002	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0120 .012	0.012	0.012	900,000	
Philex Mining Corp. A	.2500	.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	.2800	.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0022 .0022	0.0022	0.002210,000,000		

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,581,660	21,847,325.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	38,854,303	85,480,317.00
PRO	5,465,000	17,135,010.00
Mining	23,030,000	501,850.0
OIL	10,000,000	22,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	79,930,963	124,986,502.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	342.42	DOWN 6.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	,480.76	DOWN 4.25
PRO	438.47	DOWN 3.72
Mining	,192.28	UP 1.36
OIL	1.01	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	634.85	DOWN 4.08
Composite	,015.70	DOWN 7.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15, NO. OF DECLINES: 27, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73, NO. OF TRADES: 949

CURRENCIES

February 23, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.924471	1.000000	54.312000
Japan	Yen	0.007815	0.008454	0.459200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473421	1.593800	86.562500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.118536	0.128220	6.963900
Switzerland	Franc	0.681060	0.736703	40.011800
Canada	Dollar	0.614185	0.664364	36.082900
Singapore	Dollar	0.530239	0.573559	31.151100
Australia	Dollar	0.552847	0.598015	32.479400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.452242	2.652590	144.067500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.246532	0.266674	14.483600
Brunei	Dollar	0.528722	0.571919	31.062100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021570	0.023332	1.267200
UAE	Dirham	0.251721	0.272287	14.788500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.081700	58.749300
Argentina	Peso	0.287103	0.310559	16.867100
Brazil	Real	0.255238	0.276091	14.995100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134611	0.145609	7.908300
India	Rupee	0.019421	0.021008	1.141000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.243314	0.263193	14.294500
Mexico	New Peso	0.084412	0.091308	4.959100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515313	0.557414	30.274300
Norway	Kroner	0.133214	0.144098	7.826300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016022	0.017331	0.941300
South Africa	Rand	0.114299	0.123637	6.715000
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.000842	0.045700
Sweden	Kroner	0.109630	0.118587	6.440700
Syria	Pound	0.022012	0.023810	1.293200
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.026657	0.028835	1.566100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000580	0.000627	0.034100

Trading seen to remain slow

From page B1

as banks demanded for higher yields as they expect another year of runaway budget deficit.

"With the overhang of so many negative issues, the market is unlikely to reverse its current consolidation trend. Technically, the break of the 1,040 index level suggests a continued decline until firmer support between 980 to 1,000 is found," BPI Securities said.

"Unfortunately, it remains uncertain if the market can manage to bounce back strongly from this critical support range. Investors are just as likely to sit out the market until tensions ease and other pressing issues near resolution," it said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the prospect of a war in the Middle East remained foremost in the minds of investors.

"Chartwise, Friday's close at 1,015.70 highlights the uncertainty that looms over markets in the near-term. Given the break below the 1,020-1,030 levels, it now puts the test of the 980-1000 level at risk," Ravelas said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

STOP THE NEW ROUND! COALI
NEW
WALDEN BELLO

MEMBERS of the "Stop the New Round Coalition" hold a protest action to force the government to disclose the commitments that the Philippines will make during the 5th ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization in September.

HANNEKE VAN ELDIK THIEME

Dollar reserves seen slipping to $15.62B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' dollar reserves will shrink to $15.62 billion by year's end from $16.18 billion as of end-2002 because of a slowdown in exports, according to government estimates.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura was even less optimistic, saying the country's gross international reserves would fall to between $14 billion and $15 billion this year.

He said the government was expected to draw from the central bank's vaults in the coming months to pay its maturing debts.

The country's dollar reserves grew on Friday after the national government deposited another $320 million out of the proceeds of a five-year eurobond issue. The level stood at $16.416 billion as of Jan. 31.

The central bank is expecting the country's reserves to drop slightly this year in the event that the United States invades Iraq.

A war in the Middle East will likely affect dollar inflows, particularly those covering exports.

Exports are expected to grow by only 5 to 8 percent this year from last year's 9 percent.

Similarly, import growth is seen slightly weakening to a range of 6 to 9 percent against 12.8 percent in 2002.

The $15.62-billion GIR projection for 2003 could cover about 3.9 months worth of imports.

Ariolas behind biggest Ponzi scam to date, victims' lawyer alleges

By Michelle V. Remo

A LAWYER has accused the family of Conrado Ariola Jr. of running the country's most organized Ponzi scam operation to date.

In an interview, lawyer Roberto Guevarra of the Guevarra & Crisologo law firm said Ariola's family was behind Ariolite Enterprises International Corp., a car battery manufacturing company that later shifted to the investments business.

Ariolite was renamed Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. (Multitel) on June 26, 2000, following the entry of investment operator Rose Baladjay, who was indicted on charges she defrauded her investors, Guevarra disclosed.

Guevarra is a counsel for a group of investors seeking damages from Multitel.

Guevarra said Ariola acted as chief executive of Multitel, while Baladjay served as president.

Joseph Valiant Ariola, son of the elder Ariola, served as vice president for finance, he said.

Other members of the Ariola "pyramid syndicate," Guevarra claimed, were Patrocina Ariola, second wife of the elder Ariola; Florencia Ariola, wife of the younger Ariola; Louela Ariola-Sylvestre, daughter of the elder Ariola; and Alfonso Sylvestre Jr., Louela's spouse.

Guevarra said in January last year, Ariola broke away from Multitel following a dispute over money matters with Baladjay and formed other investment units under the umbrella company Conrad Group and Associates Inc. (CGA).

CGA is registered with the SEC as a management and consultancy firm.

Acting as conduits of CGA are Five Visions Consultancy Inc., which later changed its name to Intercontinental Services Inc., and Servlink Cargo Inc.

CGA and its conduits were recently shut down by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Government regulators said they found evidence that the group violated the Securities Regulation Code.

MWSS seeks payment

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System is demanding that Maynilad Water Services Inc. resume paying concession fees next month.

In an interview, MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said Maynilad should resume paying its debts, as it had refused to turn over control of its service area to the government.

Maynilad still collects monthly water service fees and, therefore, has the resources to pay its obligations, Cruz said.

Maynilad has refused to settle its obligations, saying this will depend on ongoing arbitration hearings.

"We could not discuss any of these now, as there is a pending arbitration," Maynilad chief finance officer Salvador Tirona told the INQUIRER. *Christine A. Gaylican*

UOB submits docus

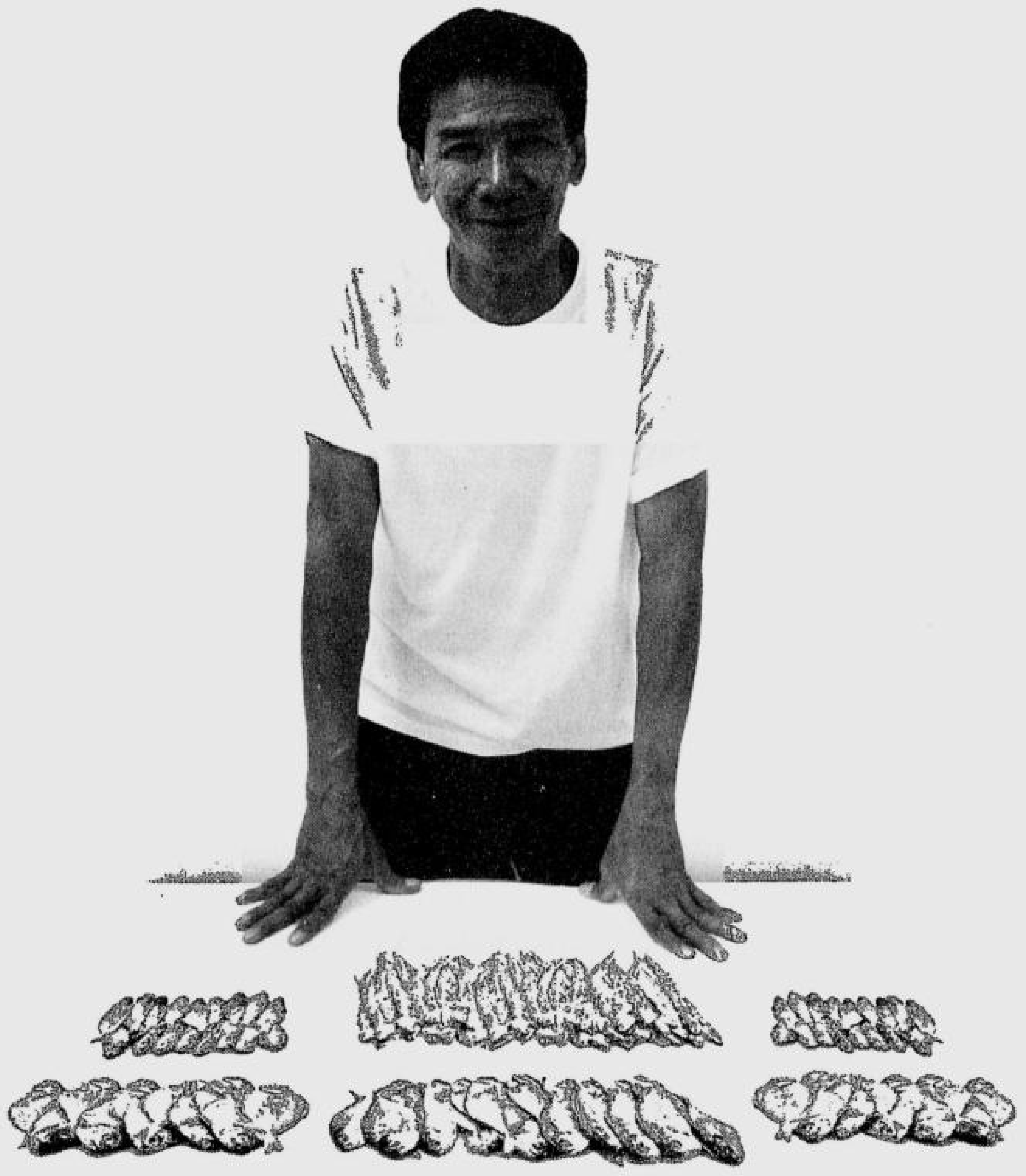
UNITED Overseas Bank of the Philippines has submitted to a Manila court a copy of its settlement agreement with the group of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu as requested by the Farmix group of Manuel Tiankansee.

The bank said this should help the Espiritu and Farmix groups settle their differences on how much Farmix was entitled to from the amount the Espiritu group got from UOB Ltd. of Singapore for selling out of the bank.

Farmix used to be part of the Espiritu group and had internal arrangements on sharing as minority partners of UOB.

"The dispute is between the former partners on how much Farmix should get from what we paid," the bank said.

Not just for the big fish



If you never thought that world class technology can be affordable to a small business like you, think again. Hundreds of SMEs in the Philippines are now powered by Oracle technology. They chose Oracle as the solution that can give them the edge they need to stand out in this highly competitive market. Top companies have been enjoying the benefits of Oracle, and now you can too. **Think big with Oracle.**

intel.

MSI DIGILAND (PHILS.), INC.

ORACLE PartnerNetwork CERTIFIED PARTNER

Oracle Call Center: (632) 811-5831 to 33

Job-anxious managers swamp Napocor office

MIDDLE managers and supervisors are swarming the National Power Corp.'s headquarters in Quezon City, as job interviews stretch until the wee hours of the morning.

Despite a display of camaraderie with others waiting in line, the officials' restless eyes and uneasy smiles are showing the strain of uncertainty about keeping their jobs.

Napocor's management said it expected to identify employees that would be rehired in time for a mass termination of its 8,000 employees effective Feb. 28.

Edmund Anguluan, Napocor vice president for human resources, said in a statement that the state-run power firm was hastening the process for placing qualified personnel for the positions declared vacant in line with the ongoing reorganization.

"Napocor is in the process of filling up 3,799 positions," Anguluan said. "This is not an easy task, as we are working on a very tight schedule. Yet, we have to be very careful not to violate the integrity of the whole undertaking."

Napocor's spin-off, the National Transmission Corp., is also in the middle of its own reorganization involving 3,714 positions.

Anguluan underscored the importance of hiring qualified people to ensure that there would be no disruption of electricity services in the country. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Investor seen acquiring 55% stake in Subic-Clark venture

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT has said it expects to attract a major foreign investor that will take up at least 55 percent of the Subic-Clark Alliance Development Corp. (SCAD) in 24 months.

This was revealed by Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) president Rufo Colayco, who said SCAD would spur the development of an agro-industrial and tourism corridor in Central Luzon that would rival the bustling Calabarzon region.

Colayco said the BCDA, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Clark Development Corp. (CDC) would initially hold a one-third stake each in SCAD, which would represent the assets that they would transfer, specifically the Subic Bay port, Clark international airport and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway.

Colayco said SCAD would undertake a valuation of these assets and provide titles for the properties to facilitate the entry of a major foreign investor.

The equities of BCDA, SBMA and CDC would be diluted to a combined 45 percent with the entry of the foreign investor.

To skirt the constitutional restrictions on foreign ownership of land, SCAD is likely to spin off the real estate assets into a separate entity to accommodate the foreign partner.

Colayco said the government needed a long-term foreign investor to implement the SCAD projects not only because of the hefty funds required but also to keep it free from "politicians interference" that, he said, was the "biggest turn-off" for investors.

The development strategy of SCAD is being patterned after the Fort Bonifacio Global City project, where a private consortium took over a 55-percent stake in the over 200-hectare project.

Colayco said the government would not only raise money from the project but would also realize more gains from the appreciation of its remaining stake in the venture.

Colayco said unlike the Fort Bonifacio project, however, the money to be pumped in by the prospective foreign investor would stay with SCAD and would be used to bankroll its infrastructure projects.

Colayco said the government had very high expectations for SCAD, which it envisioned could lead the country's economic turnaround by regaining investor confidence.

He said the government has opted to go for a project that has the biggest bang for the buck.

Colayco has been floating the SCAD concept since his first stint as head of CDC.

RCBC seeks BSP approval to buy 5% of Grepalife

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., a publicly listed universal bank controlled by the Yuchengco family, has sought approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to acquire a minimum 5-percent stake in the Yuchengcos' Great Pacific Life Assurance Corp. in line with the bank's plan to cross-sell insurance products.

"We applied (with the BSP) late last year," RCBC president Valentin Araneta said in an interview Wednesday evening.

RCBC already has a 30-percent stake in Nippon Life Insurance Co. of the Philippines.

Under the central bank's circular on bancassurance, banks can use their networks to sell the products of insurance companies where they hold a minimum 5-percent stake.

Nippon Life was established in 1997 as a joint venture between Nippon Life Insurance Co. and the Yuchengco Group of Companies. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Vinyl tile firm facing illegal importation case

THE BUREAU of Customs has cited Kent Industrial Corp. for illegally importing vinyl tiles for commercial applications and misrepresenting them as ordinary vinyl tiles of residential grade.

The findings of the bureau's valuation and review committee also said the tiles were marketed as "Kent de Luxe" vinyl tiles, not as ordinary tiles.

In the committee's findings, Kent was found to have illegally imported vinyl tiles identical to Imperial Excelon tiles manufactured by Armstrong International and locally distributed by AVD Marketing.

As a result, Kent's action has largely undercut the price of Imperial Excelon tiles, which are now more expensive than the Kent de Luxe tiles, which are actually Excelon tiles called by another name.

The customs bureau also said there was proof that Kent misdeclared the items as imported.

In a position paper, Kent admitted that the tiles they imported were of higher grade than ordinary tiles.

Kent also failed to prove that their tiles were produced in the United States, not in Taiwan as it earlier claimed.

This bolstered the suspicion that Kent falsified its importation documents.

The BOC concluded that it appeared Kent imported Armstrong Imperial Excelon tiles at an undervalued price and, in the process, misdeclared the items to the detriment of its competitors who followed legal standards and procedures.

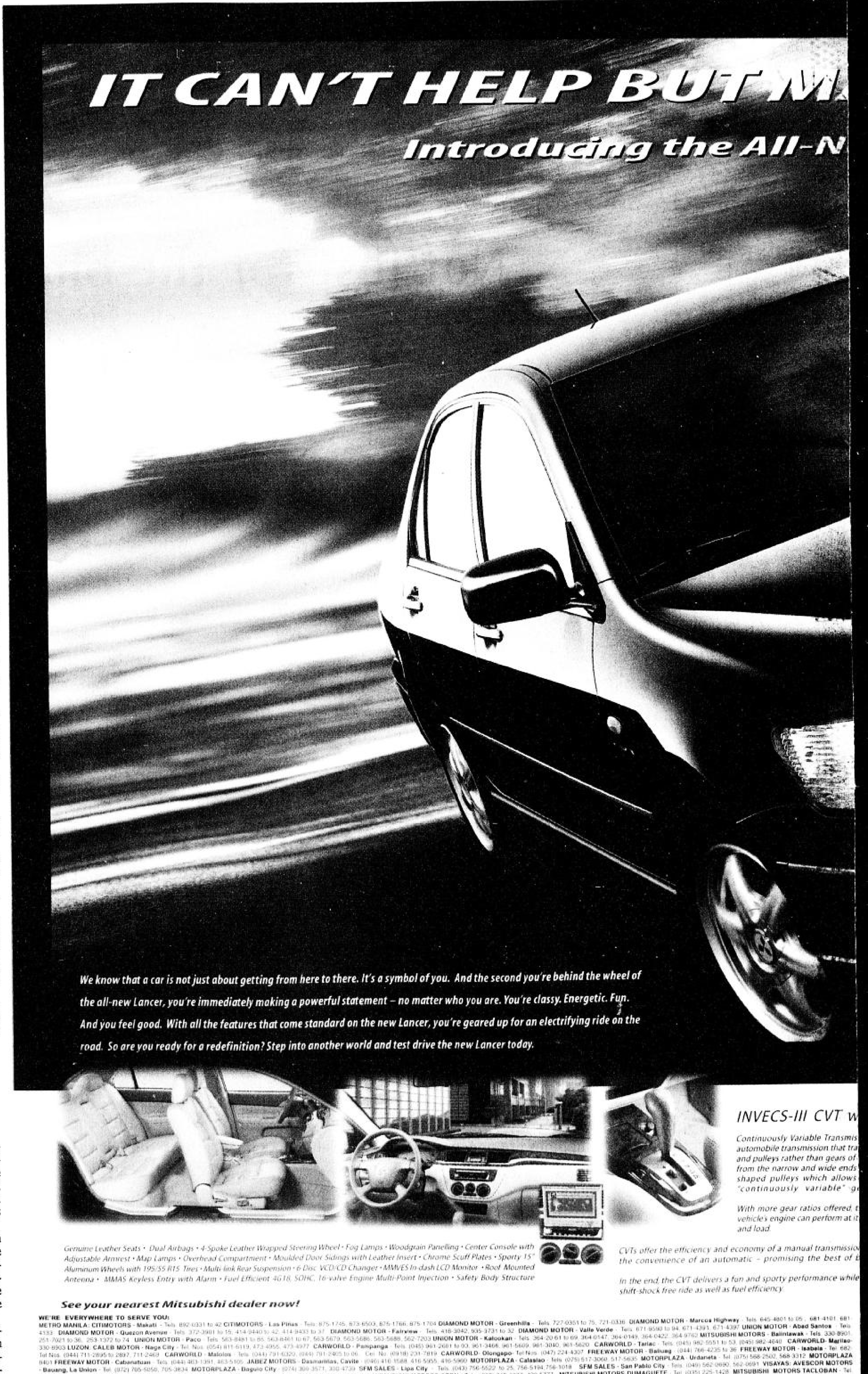
In its resolution, the BOC resolved to upgrade Kent's value declaration of 16 US cents a kilo to 64 US cents a kilo (40.3 US cents per square feet).

DOTC, LRTA support MRTC

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Light Rail Transit Authority administrator Teodoro Cruz have testified before the House committee on transportation and communications that Metro Rail Transit Corp. is best suited to implement the Edsa MRT-3 Phase 2 project.

Their assessment was based on the proven competence of project proponent MRTC, the technical and financial non-viability of a proposal to instead link LRT-1 Monumento to Edsa-Roosevelt, and the protracted legal battle that could arise should MRTC's rights over the Edsa MRT-3 Phase 2 project be disregarded.

Cruz testified that Japanese and French consultants had declared that extending LRT-1 from Edsa North Ave. to Edsa Roosevelt was not technically compatible with the DPWH flyover project in Edsa Roosevelt and Edsa North Ave. and the DOTC mass transportation master plan.



We know that a car is not just about getting from here to there. It's a symbol of you. And the second you're behind the wheel of the all-new Lancer, you're immediately making a powerful statement – no matter who you are. You're classy. Energetic. Fun. And you feel good. With all the features that come standard on the new Lancer, you're geared up for an electrifying ride on the road. So are you ready for a redefinition? Step into another world and test drive the new Lancer today.

Genuine Leather Seats • Dual Airbags • 4-Spoke Leather Wrapped Steering Wheel • Fog Lamps • Woodgrain Panelling • Center Console with Adjustable Armrest • Map Lamps • Overhead Compartment • Moulded Door Sidings with Leather Insert • Chrome Scuff Plates • Sporty 15" Aluminum Wheels with 195/55 R15 Tires • Multi-link Rear Suspension • 6 Disc VCD/CD Changer • MMVES In-dash LCD Monitor • Roof Mounted Antenna • MMAS Keyless Entry with Alarm • Fuel Efficient 4G18, SOHC, 16-valve Engine Multi-Point Injection • Safety Body Structure

INVECS-III CVT w

Continuously Variable Transmis
automobile transmission that tra
and pulleys rather than gears of
from the narrow and wide ends
shaped pulleys which allows
"continuously variable" g

With more gear ratios offered, t
vehicle's engine can perform at it
and load.

CVTs offer the efficiency and economy of a manual transmissio
the convenience of an automatic – promising the best of b

In the end, the CVT delivers a fun and sporty performance while
shift-shock free ride as well as fuel efficiency.

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

WE'RE EVERYWHERE TO SERVE YOU:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

G7 seeks measures to boost global growth

PARIS—Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven richest nations meet Saturday to show a united stand against a slump in global economic growth, sapped by the prospect of war in Iraq, which has divided the same nations on the diplomatic front.

But US officials said Friday that they were poised to lead the charge against the downturn with a $674-billion stimulus plan that would galvanize growth in the United States and elsewhere.

Ahead of the official conference, US Treasury Secretary John Snow used bilateral meetings on Friday with his counterparts from France, Germany, Italy and Russia to reveal how the battle plan would work.

US Treasury spokesperson Robert Nichols told reporters in a briefing afterwards that Snow "made the point that by strengthening our economic recovery, that since we are the world's largest economy we will boost the world's economy".

"The US must lead by example," Snow told his counterparts, according to Nichols.

The stimulus package would help raise US growth to a rate of 3.3 percent this year.

But while US officials trumpeted forecasts for super-charged US growth this year, the outlook for the European economy grew dimmer.

Late Friday an Italian treasury official said the International Monetary Fund had slashed its 2003 economic growth forecast for the euro zone to only 1.3 percent from 2.3 percent previously.

"The cuts reflect uncertainties linked to geopolitical events," he said.

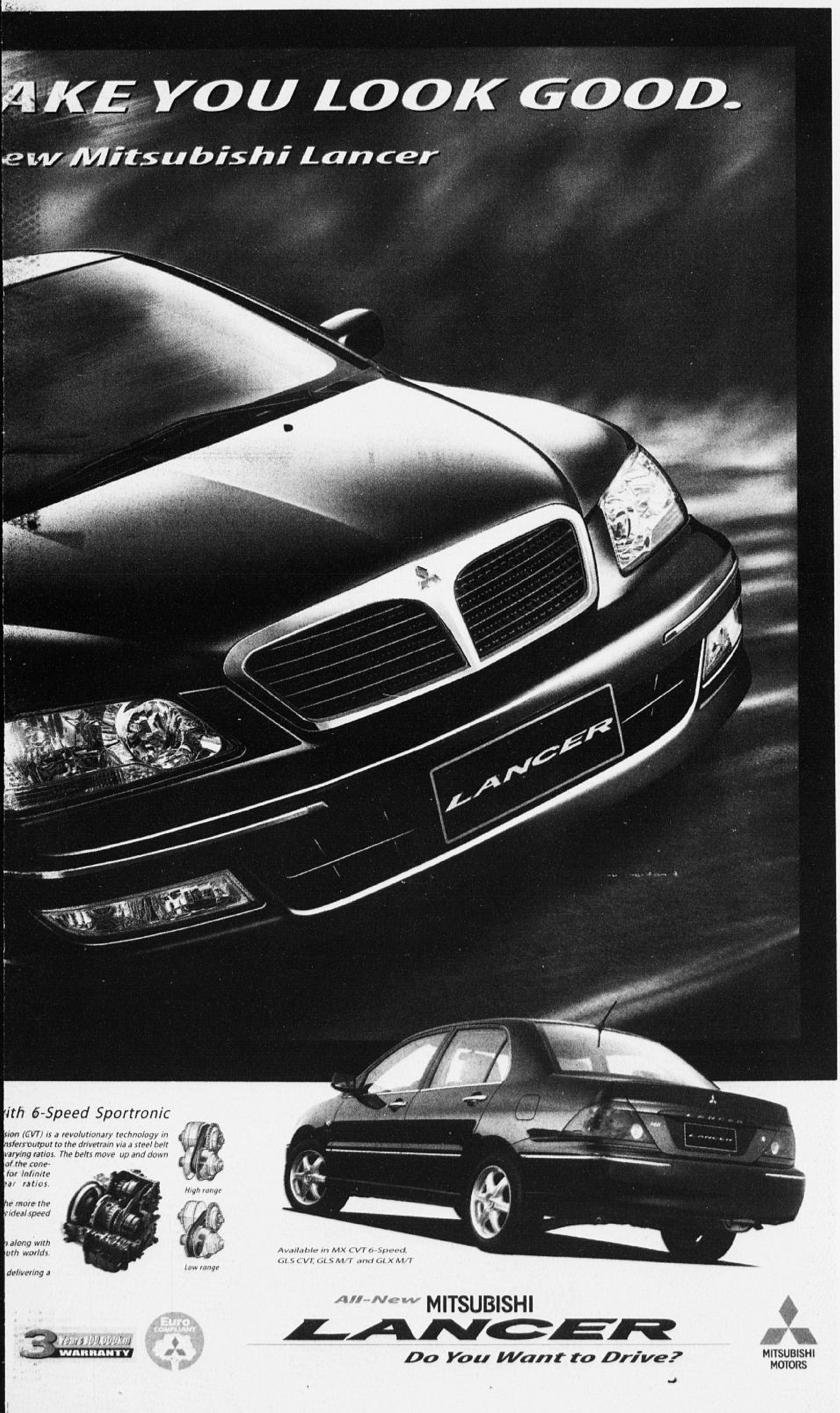
But while international tensions over the possibility of war in Iraq have driven a wedge between the governments of the G7, the finance ministers pledged to concentrate on achieving consensus on pressing economic issues and to set the Iraq issue aside for the diplomats to fight over.

En route to the meeting here, US Treasury Secretary Snow, who took office only three weeks ago, said in London earlier in the week: "I'd like to see a broad-based consensus come out of the G7 on the importance of more vigorous growth on a global basis," adding that the issue of Iraq would form "sort of a backdrop" to the G7 session.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown and Bank of England Governor Edward George had the same opinion, Snow later told reporters on Friday.

"I think (we) had sort of a shared view that economic growth has to be a focal point," he said after meeting with Brown and George. *AFP*

NEW US Treasury Secretary John Snow (center) leaves Paris North station, upon his arrival from London. Snow is in Paris for a meeting at the French economy ministry, prior the G7/G8 finance ministers and central bankers meetings starting on Saturday in the French capital. AFP



AKE YOU LOOK GOOD.
ew Mitsubishi Lancer
ith 6-Speed Sportronic
sion (CVT) is a revolutionary technology in
nsfers output to the drivetrain via a steel belt
varying ratios. The belts move up and down
of the cone-
for infinite
ear ratios.
he more the
s ideal speed
n along with
oth worlds.
delivering a
High range
Low range
Available in MX CVT 6-Speed, GLS CVT, GLS M/T and GLX M/T
3 Years 100,000Km WARRANTY
Euro COMPLIANT
All-New MITSUBISHI LANCER
Do You Want to Drive?
MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Takenaka optimistic on economy

OSAKA—Japan's Economy and Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka said on Saturday that Japan would need to harness its creative powers to get itself out of the current economic doldrums.

Speaking at a business forum in Japan's second city, Takenaka said there was no need to be pessimistic about the economy, and conditions would improve if industry made use of its innovative skills in tandem with government reform and deregulation plans.

"Raising the level of innovation will support the economy for the time being," he said in his speech. "The government will work on measures to help this, such as tax system reforms."

The speech, peppered with jokes and references to local matters ranging from food to baseball, did not touch on policy matters or on the key question of who the Japanese government will pick as its new central bank governor.

Current Bank of Japan Governor, Masaru Hayami, will step down on March 19 at the end of his five-year tenure.

The choice of his replacement will be one of the most crucial decisions Prime Minster Junichiro Koizumi will make as he seeks to prove he has got a grip on turning around Japan's slumping economy.

Speaking on local television earlier on Saturday, Takenaka said he had confidence in the prime minister's ability to make the right choice.

Koizumi had said he would name his choice by the end of this month. *Reuters*

Fixed wireless makes headway in Europe

LONDON—The new-fangled wireless data technology being talked about in western Europe in early 2003 has not been 3G, as one might have expected three years ago, but another jumble of letters and numbers altogether.

Fixed wireless, WLAN (wireless local area network), 802.11 or WiFi (wireless fidelity), as the technology is variously known, delivers high-speed wireless Internet access from landlines to remote devices at short ranges.

But crucially for would-be third-generation mobile operators, WiFi completely bypasses mobile networks and relies instead on broadband fixed-line technology.

Users of properly equipped laptops can get access to the Internet, or potentially their own corporate network, if they are within up to 100 metres (328 ft) of a WiFi access point.

Already popular in the United States and Sweden, WiFi has been kick-started in Britain in recent months with the launch of a service by dominant fixed-line company BT Group Plc .

Whether by design or not, an accelerated rollout of WiFi "hotspots" to Europe's airports and cafes has coincided with further delays of 3G wireless services—capable of transmitting data at high speeds through mobile devices.

"(Mobile operators) not delivering on 3G means that they need to deliver something," Claus Bjoernsten, European mobile platforms group manager for Intel, told Reuters at the recent opening of a hotspot in London's Royal Garden hotel.

Like many other executives in the wireless industry, Bjoernsten insists WiFi and 3G technologies are complementary.

The argument goes that once the two are technologically wedded, a travelling executive with a laptop would be able to access the Internet via WiFi at the hotel and train station, and then seamlessly "roam" onto a 3G network while on the train.

But for every WiFi hotspot that sprouts up at the local coffee shop, hotel lobby, or in one case, McDonalds , that represents one less potential revenue-earning area for the mobile operators who forked out a total of $108 billion) for 3G licences in Europe. *Reuters*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WB arm makes debut in municipal finance

WASHINGTON—The International Finance Corp. (IFC), the World Bank's private sector arm, is to make its debut in the municipal finance market with an offer of a peso-denominated credit guarantee of up to $3 million for a water conservation project in Mexico.

The partial credit guarantee will be to a private Mexican trust that will issue up to $8.8 million in bonds in the local capital markets.

The proceeds of the bonds will be used to provide a loan to pay for the building of a wastewater treatment plan by the Tlalnepantla Municipal Water Company.

"This project is pioneering in several ways," Peter Woicke, head of the IFC, said in a statement issued on Friday.

"Not only is this the IFC's first direct municipal finance deal, but it is helping to create a new asset class in a local currency so that long-term infrastructure projects can be financed by local institutional investors."

Currently the sewage from the residential and industrial sources in Tlalnepantla flows into a drainage canal of the Rio San Javier, the IFC said. *Reuters*

White House adviser sees risks to US economic recovery

DALLAS—White House economic adviser Glenn Hubbard said on Friday while there were clear downside risks to the US economic recovery—such as the timing of a rebound in business investment—there also were solid long-term fundamentals.

The economy has shown great resilience in turbulent times, Hubbard said, adding such uncertainties as a possible war in Iraq have caused concern in financial and economic circles.

Hubbard, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, was in Dallas speaking at the National Center for Policy Analysis on the Bush administration's $695 billion package of tax cuts.

"The forecasts in the private sector are for a vigorous and speedy recovery in investment," Hubbard said.

"But I am worried about downside risks there because as I travel the country in talking to business people, I sense much more hesitancy than I hear from economists," he added.

Hubbard said he felt deficits—which opponents of President George W. Bush's package have raised as a concern—were manageable.

"But with two caveats—if we can get the economy growing more rapidly, that increases federal revenues and makes deficits smaller relative to our GDP (gross domestic product).

And second, we've got to have spending restraint," Hubbard said.

"We have short-term risks in the economy," Hubbard said, adding the economy's ability to deal with shocks reflected its resilience, and there is reason for pride in the economy's long-term fundamentals.

"The (president's) plan is aimed at downside risks," he said, adding it is also aimed at spurring long-term growth.

Hubbard said he was not concerned about inflation. The Labor Department said on Friday US consumer prices rose only moderately in January as low costs for items from food to new cars helped offset a surge in energy prices.

"There is little inflationary pressure out there in the economy. Indeed globally, inflationary pressures are very modest," Hubbard said.

Hubbard said he is watching the process to replace Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami with great interest because of the key role the central bank can play in helping revive the world's second largest economy.

"The Bank of Japan simply has to run a less deflationary policy. This is a critical selection," he said. *Reuters*

Trading volume Wall St.'s weakness

NEW YORK—While the threat of war with Iraq has sent stocks falling sharply for more than a month, it is trading volume, not prices, that has taken the biggest hit and that poses the biggest risk to the market.

Most investors aren't selling—they're not trading at all, and that has given Wall Street extremely low volume and in turn the big price swings that are becoming routine.

Since the market's short-lived New Year's rally, volume has dropped to about 1.3 billion shares a day on the New York Stock Exchange from close to 2 billion shares, the kind of robust activity seen frequently in the late 1990s bull market.

"Light trading volume means there is no interest on the part of retail investors and on some institutions, as well. We have a market in which no one is open for business," said Peter Cardillo, president and chief strategist of Global Partner Securities Inc. "The reason for that are the uncertainties concerning geopolitical problems, most notably Iraq."

With fewer shares changing hands, stocks are much more vulnerable to big declines. With few, if any, buyers, sellers have to drop their prices in hopes of attracting takers.

But stocks have also experienced brief surges as blips of optimism drive prices higher.

The gains have also been the result of technical trading—investors who sold shares short, thinking the market would go even lower, have periodically been forced to buy stock to cover their positions.

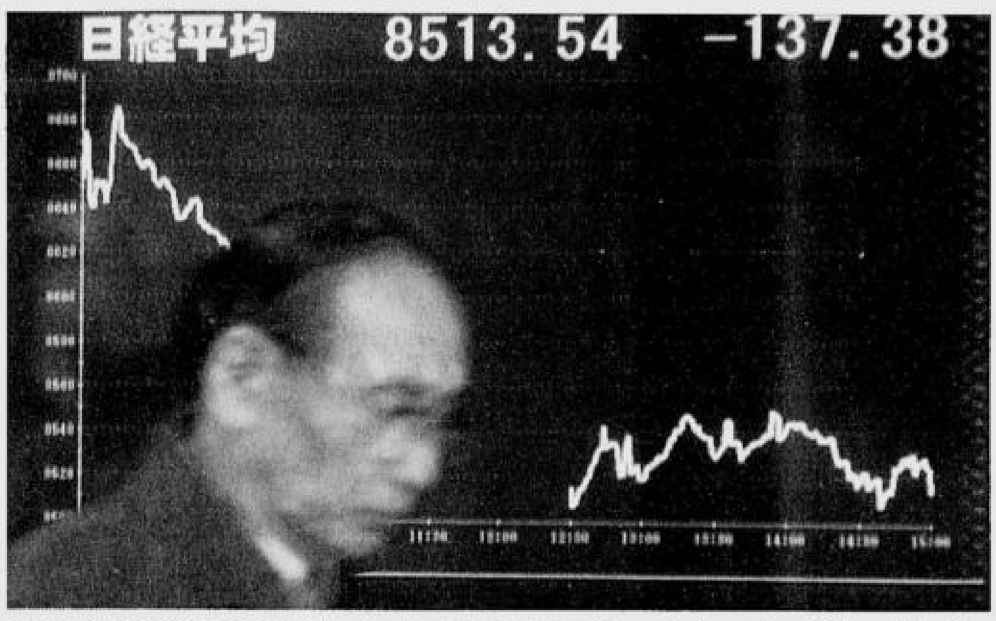
That was the case with the market's rally on Friday, when the Dow Jones industrials gained 103 points.

"Investors looking to reposition their portfolios are having more of an impact on prices than they would have on an ordinary day," said Jack Caffrey, equities strategist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank.

Volume on the NYSE this month is down from an average of 1.6 billion for October, according to Lowry's Research Reports in Palm Beach, Florida. This is largely due to investors avoiding the market amid worries about a possible war with Iraq and the impact it could have on an already slow economic recovery.

"It is worrisome. For one thing, very light volume is symptom of a bear market," said Richard A. Dickson, senior market strategist at Lowry's. "It is an indication that the bear market is not over yet."

What's particularly troubling to Dickson is the notion that there's more room for volume to drop off further and for prices to continue their sharp decline. *AP*



A JAPANESE businessman walks past an electronic stock board in downtown Tokyo, Feb. 21. The Tokyo stock market's main index fell for the fourth consecutive day dragged down by export-oriented blue chips that took a beating from the Japanese currency's renewed strength against the US dollar. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average lost 137.38 points, or 1.59 percent, to wrap up the day's session at 8,513.54 points. AP

Moody's downgrades McDonald's debt

CHICAGO—Moody's Investors Service downgraded McDonald's Corp.'s long-term senior unsecured debt on Friday, citing the company's second consecutive year of sliding same-store sales.

Moody's said the downgrade of the world's largest fast-food restaurant chain to A2 from A3—still investment grade—also reflects a lower return on the company's assets. The rating agency also said it expects efforts to restore McDonald's vitality will take two years or more.

Matthew Paull, McDonald's chief financial officer, said in response, "The change in Moody's rating on our long-term debt notwithstanding, we continue to have every confidence in the financial health of our business, as validated by a strong balance sheet, significant operating cash flow, and our leading position in virtually every market in which we do business."

Last month, McDonald's posted its first-ever quarterly loss—$344 million—acknowledging complications from its fast expansion pace and complaints about speed and food quality in its US restaurants. The results included $810 million in charges for 719 restaurant closings and other items as the new management team moved to write off some problems.

And sales at restaurants open at least a year—a key gauge of performance—were down slightly in both the United States and Europe, the company's top two markets. *AP*

Korea's LG to build PDP plant in China

SEOUL—LG Electronics Inc, South Korea's largest home appliance maker, said on Saturday it would build a plasma display panel (PDP) production plant in China to capture a share in the growing Asian market.

In a public notice to the Korea Stock Exchange, LG said it would invest $25 million in a $65 million project to build a PDP module plant in Nanjing. The remaining $40 million will be taken up by the Nanjing city administration and Chinese financial institutions.

LG said the plant, when completed by October, was expected to produce yearly 240,000 sheets of PDPs, mainly used for large-sized flat-panel televisions.

LG has two PDP output lines with a combined annual production capacity of 600,000 panels in South Korea.

Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, Sanyo Electric Co. and other Japanese companies announced a flurry of PDP investments in China last year.

The investors are seeking to take advantage of their giant neighbor's low production costs and booming economy.

Plasma displays are increasingly popular for flat-screen televisions measuring one meter (40 inches) or more diagonally. *Reuters*

SAP sees big US growth

NEW YORK—Europe's biggest software maker SAP AG will grow 50 percent faster than the market rate in the United States in 2003, the company's US Chief Executive said.

Despite one of the worst environments for technology spending, CEO and President William McDermott said SAP will beat out rivals Oracle Corp., Siebel Systems Inc. and PeopleSoft Inc. to be the number one seller of business software programs in the United States this year.

"Our mission is to be the dominant force in the United States and Canada," McDermott said in an interview this week.

The United States, which accounted for about 30 percent of the software maker's revenue in 2002, is SAP's second biggest region behind its home market of Europe. But growth has lagged behind Europe in recent quarters as a slowing economy has caused corporations to slash their technology spending.

In the fourth quarter ended Dec. 31, for example, SAP's US software sales fell 16 percent at constant exchange rates from a year ago. *Reuters*

SAN JUAN • A- 20000 • **CALOOCAN** • Pinnacle Technologies Inc • Acumax • Eterna Lynk Computer • Inter Active Computer ? Verbatim Computer Center • **ALABANG**• Computer Farm • **ANGELES** • Cyber On Line Computer Info Sys •Savers Mart • **ANTIPOLO** • UMCS Venture • **BACOLOD** • 96 Enterprises • Bacolod Sure Computer Center • Datalink Technology Inc • ICMatrix Computer Sales and Services Inc •IE Creative Computers • Speedtech Electronics & Communications Inc. • Technology One Incorporated • **BAGUIO** • Exponent Enterprises • Laser Marketing • Olympia Business Machines Co. (Phils), Inc •PC King Computer & Printing Center • Venn Mark Corporation • Venmark • **BALINTAWAK** •Dimension • **BATANGAS** • SDV Computer Center • Asic Automation Systems Technologies Co •**BINONDO** • Microtech Corporation • Wyze Systems Corporation •Yutivo Corporation • **CAGAYAN** • Alejandra Enterprises • Global Chips Technologies • **CAGAYAN DE ORO** • DataWorld Computer Center • DataWorld • Intelisoft Microcomputer Systems • Interpace Computer System • **CEBU CITY** • Infonet Solution • Ace Plus Computer Center • Anderson Computer Systems • Cebu Rem Traders • Chu Han Lang (CHL) Computer Center •Electroworld •Fastronics • Form • Lyk Microsystems Service Center • Millenium Computer Cebu • Nexus Technologies Inc• Nixus Engineering Works • Nutech Marketing • Philbyte •RAC Tools & Logic Trading • Ravan Enterprise • Silicon System • Silicon Valley Inc • Soft Touch Corporation • Systemtech Computer •Technology One Incorporated • Wired system corporation • X- Computer Sales & Services •ZIP Communications • CBX Corporation • Cebu Digital Domain Marketing • Data Builders, Inc • Fast Net •Lenton Marketing • Microware Sales • Smartlink System Inc • Thinkling Tools, Inc •**CUBAO** •Eterlink • Fastlink • **DAGUPAN** • Bitstop Computer • KC Richwealth Computers • **DAVAO** • EMCOR Inc · Advanced Technology Systems • PC Shack • WREN Computer Venture • WREN Computers • Computer World •DC Tech Micro Services Inc • Digital Interface Computer • King's Technology marketing • Smartlink Systems Inc • **DUMAGUETE** • D.G. Tech • **GEN SANTOS** • Omnitronics Inc • Stargate Computer Accessories • **GREENHILLS** • BFD Ventures • Brochiere Comp - Virra Mall • Computer Concept •Cyber Design • Infonet Computer • Pacific Office Machines Inc • Perfect Components Corner Corp. • William & Company Philippines, Inc • **ILIGAN** • Data Vision Sales Center •**ILOCOS** •Mike's Department Store • **ILOILO** • Creole sys Soln & Consultancy •Laguna Internet • Prologue Computers • **LAPU-LAPU** • Insotec • **LAS PINAS** • Microfame Marketing • **LEGAZPI** • Denver's Computer Shoppe • All Electronics Enterprises • **LUCENA** • Digivision Computer • **MAKATI** • advance System Automation • ASP III Comp & Accessories • Axis Computer • Banbros commercial • Bismac Business Machine Corporation • Calhoon Computer • Cenex Information • Chase Technologies Corporation • Compumedics Corp • Computer Craft makrting • Computrends Systems Technology •Control Computer Enterprises • Crosspoint computers Inc • Cyber Dynamics Inc • Cybernnet Corporation • Digital Automation • Distributed processing System • DV Pro Solution • DV Pro Solutions, Inc • Explore Computer • First Data Corporation • Fujitzu Philippines • Gemora Elect. Mktg. & Serv. • Grandtech • Info Corporation • Informatics computer Institute •Information Asia solutions • Integrated Networx Corp • International Compulink Corp • Intracom System Inc • Ison • Janero Trading • Jevans Enterprises •Jpson • Makati Microshop • Mannasoft Technology Corp • Micro Dynamics • Micro Image Company Ltd • Micro Pacific Tech •Microbase, Inc •Microgenesis Business Systems •Micro-Image • Microphase Enterprise Company • Microserver Information System • NEC Philippines •Nexus Technologies Inc • Northgate Technologies Inc • Panthertech Trading • PC Tech Incorporated • PC Tech, Inc • Personal Computer Specialist • PH Office System • Power Up Computers Inc • Rhine Marketing Corporation • RK Lite Computer Center •Sandz Distribution Philippines Inc • SIM Computer • SM Equicom Computer Services, Inc • SM Equicom Computers •Subic Infocorp Trading Corporation • Suiza Enter • Tetra Tecnology Corporation • United Digital Systems • Unison Comp System • Wang Global Philippines Inc • Webscape Phil. Inc • Wesery Systems Internat'l Inc • Wesolv Open Computing Inc • Winmark Computer • Wispy Trading • Www@PCDG Compumart • Yahoo Computer Services • Zepway Merchandise • Axis Computer •Compulab Technology Corp • Gemora Electronic mktg & Services • Productivity Tech. Services, Inc • Qnet System • **MALABON** • Dataclick • Renasci Marketing • **MALATE** • Pro Venture Business Group, Inc • **MANDALUYONG** • Ace Net Computer System - Shangrila •ARX Computer Inc / ANECO • Axus International Inc • Brochiere Comp - Shangrila • Computer Expert • Computer Store Inc • Data Care Service Center • Electroworld • EWG Comp Ctr / 4J Industries Corporation • Galaxy •GHZ Computer Products • Hot-Keys computer • info-X technology • Microcircuits Corporation • NT Computer • Paean Ventures • Premium Logic • Teknetron • Vitruality Information Technology System • **MANDAUE** • Ng Khai Development Corporation • **MANILA** ?PC Corner • 3J Com • adenip computer •Acenet Microcomputer Inc • Advance Solutions • Amtrak Business • Arx Computer Center • Avid Sales Corporation • Award Micro tech • Axis Computer Inc •Complink Marketing • Computer Assistance Center • Computer et company • Creative Technologies Inc • Dreamchum Computer System • Dynasys Information Systems & Technologies • Executive Generation • Filipinas Computer & Data Communication Center • First Choice Trading Inc •Hanz Trading • Ho Sy Gen Merchandise • ICC2 • Infoworxs Incorporated • Inside computer Service company • Insight Computer Service Company • Intel Channel Conference • ICC2 • Inverter Chips Corp ICC 2000 • ISON • JPSON • Laogan Technologies • LMK Commercial •Machine & Computerworld Inc. • **BELTRON** • Maxel Computer Center • MBS Commercial •Megamerge International Corp •Micro Express • Microsmith Technology Systems • Netgen Computer • New Orient • Olduz Computer Trading • Pioneer Computer •Quest/Advance Solution Incorporated • Random Access S-ware Inc •Rising Sun Computer • Romtech Enterprise, Corp •Ron Ali Enterprises • Smartasia Technologies • Systemtech Computer Specialist Co. • Total Quality Machines, Inc • TQM • Trend Microsystem, Inc • Value Systems Philippines • Whitewhale Enterprises •Wid Electric • XCL Business Machines • Yuprenco Trading • **METRO MANILA** • Zin.net, Inc • AI Innovation Systems • American Technologies, Inc • Aren Computer Services • Columbia Technologies, Inc • Computer Craft Corporation • C-ROM Computer System • F.A.T. Kee Computer Systems • Landmark Computer users, Inc • Pacific Office Machine, Inc • System Tech • **MUNTINLUPA** • ESHOP Computers • PC Pal • Video Matrix •**NAGA** • Bitstop • **OLONGAPO** • Power Chip Comp & Services • **OZAMIS** • Electro Hardware • **PARANAQUE** • Altiere Ventures • Fujitzu Philippines • PC Supplies Corp. • **PASAY** • Xorcom Enterprises • **PASIG** • Accent Micro • Blue Sierra Enterprise • Brochiere Comp - Robinson's • end 2 End • Expressnet • Flexy Components • Frog E • Galaxy8 • Honey Comb Business, Inc • LAMCO • Next Innovation Comp. Peripheral • One consulting • Online Technology Inc • PC Live • PC / Live Accent Micro Products • Peripheral Solution Inc • Unison Computer System • Vituosoft •Xytrix systems Corporation • **PUERTO PRINCESA** • Kawing Computer Center • **PURCH** •Purch SB Name • **QUEZON** •Access Plus • Banawe • Electroworld • Eurocom Integrated Company • Hi-Lux Marketing • Laserbyte Computer Images Plus • Luxor System • Maintech Computer Systems Incorporated • Microtechnics Computer Services, Inc •Office World Enterprise • Olympia Philippines Inc • Paragon Philippines • PC Evotech • PC Planet • Perfect Byte - West • Perfect Byte computers • PFG Enterprises • Power PC • Prodata System • Room Plus Inc • Unison Computer Sys • Villman Computer •West Avenue Computer Center • WYSIWYG Computer •Ynzal Marketing • Zenshin • Zenshin Computers • Zodiac Computronics • Zodiac Surfwares Center • **QUEZON CITY** • Abstract Automation Co. • Banawe Computer • CD-Romania Computers ••CNSI Ventures • Compex Sales Corp • Data House Electronics •Datahouse Computer • Electroworld • Eurocom Trading Co., Inc • Exotech • Fastlink Computer Co • Hytech Integrated Products Inc • Lucky Computer •Microserve Computer • MSI Digiland System • Paramaount Computer Systems Corp. • Power PC Inc. • Pro Data Systems/ Triton • Sansui Computer • Shellsoft Technology Corp. • Silicon Valley Center • Silicon Valley Computer Centre • Techpoint • Teepee Resources & Marketing Enterprises • Top Spot Computer Technologies Inc. •Vellcom Corporation • Zenshin Systems Corp. • Zeus Technologies Inc. • Compex International Inc. • **SAMPALOC** • Acrotech Micro Devices • **SAN JUAN** • A2000/ Computer Farm • ABC Computer •Ben-Phil Trading Co. • CD Square • Compucare Corp. • Computer Den, Inc. • Contronics Computer Center • Fatkee Computer Systems • GBJ Computer Trading • Genovation Computer Sales & Service • Information Products Corp. •Integrated Computer Systems Inc. • New Asia Computer World • PC Click •PC Dynamica • PC Quarter •Perfect Byte Computer • Silvergate • The Brain Computer Corp. • **SAN PABLO** • PC Users Shop • **SANTIAGO** • Globestar Computer System •**TACLOBAN** •Chapter 2 General Merchandise • EDS Electrocomputer Data Systems • Electro Computer Data System • **TAGBILARAN** • Megalith Enterprises • **TARLAC** •JI Infiniwares Inc •PC Vendor Comp Sales & ACC • **TUGUEGARAO** • TOL Computer City • **VALENZUELA** • Compuware Computer Center •Ditec Computer Centrum • RNM Computers

There are 260 honest software dealers in the country. Are you an honest software user?

Do the right thing.
License your software today.
Go to your nearest Clean Shop Campaign Dealer.

Microsoft
The CLEAN SHOP Campaign

Microsoft®

For more information, please contact
Microsoft Support Services
Tel: (632) 672-7272 • Fax : (632) 672-1111
E-mail : phpiracy@microsoft.com
www.microsoft.com/philippines

Deutsche Bank sells units

BERLIN—Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest, announced Friday the sale of a private equity business to its managers for 1.5 billion euros ($1.6 billion), the latest move in a drive to focus on its main businesses.

The bank said it would retain a 20 percent share in DB Capital Partners, which holds investment in companies almost ready to be sold through a trade sale or stock market flotation.

DB Capital's portfolio includes investments in US companies Jostens, Prestige Brands, Noveon and Jenny Craig. In Europe the portfolio includes Center Parcs, United Biscuits, Lecta and Jefferson Smurfit.

AP

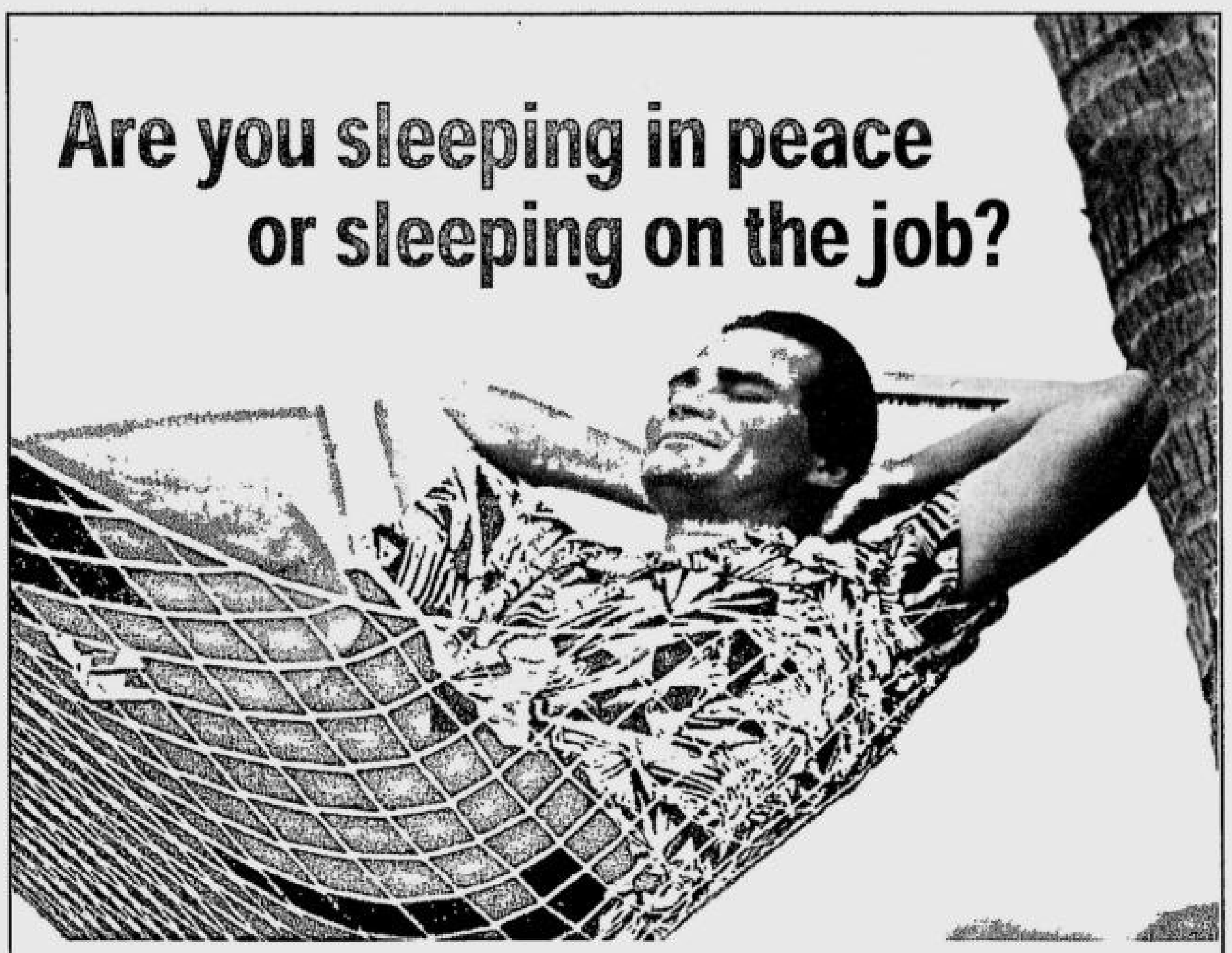
With fire, an extinguisher may be too late.

diplomat
SAFE LTD

www.astech-pengson.com
Email us at: marketing@astech-pengson.com

ASTECH PENGSON
distributor inc

- MANILA OFFICE: Tel. No.: 893-25-19 to 21
893-25-23 to 27 / Fax No.: 893-17-63 • 819-01-45
- CEBU OFFICE: Tel. No.: (032) 344-11-85
- DAVAO OFFICE: Tel. No.: (082) 221-0585



Are you sleeping in peace or sleeping on the job?

Don't take chances with your data. Protect vital data with one of Tandberg's wide range of state–of–the–art data storage solutions. They ensure you never lose anything. The best part is, now for a limited period only, each Tandberg data storage solution comes with a BONUS TapeWare Single Server Edition software. Hurry, don't sleep on this one. Promotion is valid now until June 30, 2003.

SUPER DLT TAPE
Tandberg SDLT 512OL Superloader
- Up to 16 cartridges
- Up to 5.12 TB capacity
- Up to 115.2GB/hr transfer rate
- 2U Rack-mountable

SUPER DLT TAPE
Tandberg SDLT 220 Autoloader
- Up to 10 cartridges
- Up to 2.2 TB capacity
- Up to 79.2GB/hr transfer rate
- Rack-mountable

VS TAPE 80
Tandberg DLT VS80 Autoloader
- Up to 8 cartridges
- Up to 640GB capacity
- Up to 21.6GB/hr transfer rate
- Rack-mountable

SLR
Tandberg SLR 100 Autoloader
- Up to 8 cartridges
- Up to 800GB capacity
- Up to 38GB/hr transfer rate
- Rack-mountable

DLT TAPE
Tandberg DLT 8000 Autoloader
- Up to 10 cartridges
- Up to 800GB capacity
- Up to 43.2GB/hr transfer rate
- Rack-mountable

Free TapeWare
Single Server Edition Backup Software worth $499.00
- Unlimited scalability
- Unlimited support for Clients/Workstations
- Support for Windows, Netware or Linux
- Unlimited support for Tape Drives

Free Chicken Sensation dinner at T.G.I.Friday's when you ask for a Tandberg presentation. Call Avic or Meann, 727-7224 local 119,120 and 121.

Promotion valid until June 30, 2003 or while stocks last.

FRIDAY'S

Advance Replacement Program

3 YEARS WARRANTY

TANDBERG DATA
O.E.M. Manufacturer of Leading Brands

Distributed by
Lattice NETWORKS
455 Gen. Bautista
San Juan 1500,
Metro Manila
Tel: 723-0601
Fax: 723-7951

PERCEPTIONS, INC.:
A Proudly-Pinoy, World-Class PR Firm

PRSP Grand Anvil, Int'l Awards Won Show Philippine PR at Par with World's Best

Perceptions President Rene Nieva (seated center) is shown with his PR Accounts Management Team consisting of (seated, left to right): Directors for Client Services Winnie Nieva and Maia Bacongais and PR Associates Marge San Jose and Lulette Alipio. Standing behind them are (l-r) EVP Noel Nieva, AVP & Director for Client Services Robert Po and AVP & Creative Director OJ Villavieja.

Rene Nieva (center) chats with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza when the latter guested in the "Read to Lead" ReadShow held in Robinson's Place Manila. At left is Noel Nieva.

Perceptions' logo was designed by the late National Artist J. Elizalde Navarro. It symbolizes, according to Navarro, " the third eye" – the quality of being perceptive and being able to see through the surface to the essences of things.

In winning the Grand Anvil Award for 2002 from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) for its Read to Lead program for Visine, as well as its other Anvil and international PR awards in the past, Perceptions has shown that Filipino PR men and women can hold their own against the best in the world.

The PRSP Anvil Awards, conferred on outstanding PR programs at the Hotel Intercon last Friday, Feb. 21, are considered the Oscar Awards of Public Relations. The Grand Anvil is given to the best PR program from among the already outstanding programs that have won the Anvil Award of Excellence.

Visine's Read to Lead Program is a reading advocacy program designed to encourage young Filipinos to read more so that they can become knowledgeable and responsible citizens and leaders who can help the country progress and prosper faster.

Aside from the Grand Anvil, Perceptions has won an Anvil Award of Merit for the Leaders for Health Project, which is a partnership among Pfizer, the Department of Health and the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

The two awards are the latest in a string of national and international PR awards received by Perceptions. From the PRSP, the firm has previously won an Anvil Award of Merit for the Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award of the Philippines and two Awards of Excellence for Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation's (RCBC) "Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan" Children's Short-Story Writing Contest.

On the international front, Perceptions has harvested three Golden World Awards for Excellence from the International Public Relations Association (IPRA): one each for the Rizal Award for Rural Physicians for Hoechst and the Child Survival Program for Johnson & Johnson, and another for the Urban Reforestation Project it undertook for the Philippine Wood Producers Association.

Perceptions has received recognition from its clients themselves. From the Business Software Alliance (BSA), an aggrupation of the leading software developers including Microsoft, Adobe and others, it has been the recipient of the BSA global marketing and public relations award for the "90-Day Grace Campaign" and the "GO ICT, Stop Software Piracy" campaign. These two campaigns helped reduce the rate of software piracy in the Philippines from 92% in 1996 to 63% in 2001.

From the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), its client since 1988, Perceptions has received the HKTA Gold Award for Best PR Campaign in 2000.

Culmination of a Life-long Dream

Nieva organized Perceptions with his wife Genny in January 1987, shortly after opting for early retirement from Exxon Chemicals where he served as Public Affairs Associate for the Asia Pacific region.

"Putting up Perceptions in 1987 was the culmination of my life-long dream to have my own PR company where I can practice the kind of professional, ethical and innovative PR that I have learned in my previous jobs in Manila, New York and Hong Kong," Nieva related.

After the HKTB, more international outfits were added to the firm's client list including Arianespace, Johnson & Johnson, Amway, Airbus, BSA, CNN, Cartoon Network, Pfizer and Cisco Systems. The company has even done work for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Commitment to Excellence and Integrity

"I think the main reasons for whatever success Perceptions has achieved has been our commitment to excellence and innovativeness, to honesty and integrity in our dealings with others, and to the dedication, teamwork and selfless cooperation displayed by my associates in the company from top to bottom," Nieva further stated.

"The Grand Anvil Award-winning Read to Lead project itself was a perfect example of this, especially on the matter of commitment to excellence and teamwork," he observed.

The project team was led by Executive Vice President Noel Nieva as overall director, PR Staff Assistant Kate Zapanta as project coordinator, Production Executive Mario Mendoza as on-the-ground manager and Director for Client Services Winnie Nieva as publicity head.

"My role is increasingly becoming more like that of a playing coach. I've been letting the younger guys do the playing with my job being more to guide, to cheer, to encourage, to point out mistakes when I need to. But I still come in and play now and then, just to prove to myself that I still can hack it," he added.

Nieva also attributed Perceptions' success to the company's versatility in terms of the PR and PR-related services it offers. "Perceptions has the advantage in that we offer more than publicity services, which is what most other PR agencies only do. We provide a whole gamut of other equally vital services such as counseling and strategizing — which I think is at the very heart of PR – as well as advertising, event management, graphic design, production of publications and various printed materials, as well as of audio-visuals," he explained.

PR Must be a Force for Good & Truth

Nieva said that putting up Perceptions has enabled him to put into practice his belief that PR must be a force for good and for truth.

"PR is a powerful weapon that must be used for positive and noble objectives in order to be effective and successful. If one starts using PR for deceitful and devious ends, it is bound to fail and even becomes self-destructive in the end," the Perceptions chief executive emphasized.

"I think all our award-winning projects at Perceptions are testimonies of the validity of this "PR as a force for good & truth" philosophy," he further stated.

PERCEPTIONS, INC.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974008
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

MKT STDPROSTATE CENTER SKIN WARTS IMPOTENCE RM 46 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

COMPUTER REPAIR

COMPUTER/SALES/REPAIRS PTRS/NOTEBOOK T8515186

FINANCIAL

LANDBANK BONDS
WE BUY AR 10-YEAR BOND
643-5529, 0917-7922363 Ver

MASSAGE

0001 G-Guys 5762742

000H BOYZ 3233269

18-MEN 746-3532

AkhinThaiMasge50%OFF Ogulo&Cbu 09167066435MIa8347357

Hunk Mico 09165690116

HUNKS TOUCH 0920-5182552

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0916-4404374

JV MALE MASSUER 24hrs 09202387878 ;7130279

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE MASSEURS 09193202444

MSSGE M/F 09192714842 ANJO

PowerMassage-HHS 889-1490

THAI Body Refex www.geocities.com/ayalabangirl

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09193365411

FEELS GOOD 4127758

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

JOJO HHMS 251-2712/09194775476

JOJO/3626560/09204050050

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

RICA REFLEX 09166657273

THE TSUBOS M/F 4140933

Wizard Massage 4213197

TUTORIAL LESSONS

ACADEMICS/ENGLISH 8134472

• ADEPT TUTORS @ 8833671

• LIGHT 5301315 5268216 •

MISCELLANEOUS

Guides 24H • 0917-8912920

HOUSEHOLD

MAIDS/3K Eng/Tag 8959031

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

BESTMAIDS 4111593/7111602

Direct Maid Cook Yaya 8709283

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IVYLANA Manpower Services MAID YAYA LAVA MIDWIFE TUTOR 926-8984 433-1431

Maids Fr. Province 445-0899

NURSE / MIDWIFE 7830738

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND **MAIDS**
Call:Joy •8712372•8722792•

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND **MAIDS**
842 9807 • 772 4213
912 4706 • 912 4701
853 3505 • 873 7055
873 5062

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 8834270 4213253

TRUSTED KASAMBAHAY 7423378

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

We have MAID / COOK / YAYA NURSE / DRIVER 732-8405

Yaya Maid Cook HGirl 8958507

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LBahay7433225

LIPAT BAHAY 535-2064

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

Gnhts. new4br 2Mneg 9487112

PARANAQUE

4-DR APT. J. GABRIEL ST. BACLARAN 2.52M Contact Jo Santos 8723784 Cel# 09198130658

QUEZON CITY

CORINTHIAN / ACROPOLIS Nice / new 330; 423; 600sqm 4-6 Bdrms Den P18-28-38M 6337601-03

★NR ATENEO 3M 6819868★

Proj.2 5BR 2TB 426-2917

•U.P. Vill• 9210255/9219967

UP/DWN FULLY FURNSHD 9264889

RIZAL

345m² Nayong Silangan P1.8 3br Cell. No. 0917-4149898

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb • 09178174547

Greenland, Sn Mateo FA190 LA120 p.concrete P2.850M(neg) 3BR 2TB 2cgrge w/ 2lerr s-furn, D. leaving (Flor) 0917-8485621

OTHER AREAS

Tagaytay H&L Class A Subd. 3.9M w/terms 0917-6426549

BATANGAS

RushlCanyonWoods Btngas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

Ayala 1.8M/30m² 744-3465

AYALA WEST TOWER
P1.8M-P7M Newly Constructed Mkt Prime •0916-7022867•

BURGUNDY CORPORATE TOWER
Lease to own units avlbl
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
8944516 / 5048
0916-4599639 / 09179853661

ESSENSA TOWERS
P42M FA-512m² preferred by rich & famous 09167022867

Palm Tower Studio Type 1.150 Neg • 897-8466 •

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MEGAWORLD
The Country's No. 1 Residential Developer

Best Selling Condo Homes
First Come, First Served

STEPS AWAY FROM GREENBELT
GREENBELT RADISSONS
GREENBELT PARKPLACE

- Few units left
- Your priceless address at Greenbelt
- Perfect unit layout
- As low as P15T a month for Radissons and P18T a month for Parkplace
- Flexible financing terms with bank assistance
- Your entry point to an exclusive Megaworld community

OVERLOOKING THE AYALA TRIANGLE
PASEO PARKVIEW TOWERS

- Last few units
- Largest hotel-like lobby of its kind
- Commanding views of parks and Makati CBD
- Flexible payment terms
- Bank or in-house financed
- For turnover this year
- Your opportunity to buy into an exclusive Megaworld community

SHOWROOM OPEN 8:30AM TO 7PM DAILY
For a viewing appointment or more information,
CALL MARICOR
867-8868 • 867-8888 • Fax: 867-8028
E-mail: sales@megaworldcorp.com

MEGAWORLD
www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

HOUSE & LOT

RSG
Panapaan I, Bacoor, Cavite
RFO
30% D/P in easy installment, as low as
*7,400.00+/- a month
*based on 15 years loan
BPI-Family Bank Housing Loan Program

CAVITE

Why Rent??? Buy Now!!!
Ready for Occupancy
RSG Gueventhomes
Near SM-Bacoor
D/P 12 months to pay Inhouse; Pag-ibig;GSIS; SSS or Provident
Tels. 873-5508 • 873-5509
Cel.: (0918) 904-8230
BROKERS / AGENTS WELCOME

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

LEON GUINTO
NEAR QUIRINO AVE.
Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.215M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

5 STAR CONDO
Along EDSA-Boni for as low 8,333/mo. • 0916-6432752

Various Manda. Condo/Thses Call for appt. 534-6610 Jojo

PARANAQUE

Ayala nr Airport 786T
10% DP P9T/MO studio - 3BR 20 mins fr Makati / Alabang Across SM Sucat 0917-8313226

HOUSE & LOT

GUEVENTHOMES
2 BR T/House
own Carport
ATTIC provision
near MALL
call: RSG Sales
531-1384
531-0390/95
(0917) 834-2759
(046) 502-3694
www.guevent.com/homes
1-800-10 RSG HOME
rsghomes@qinet.net
other units available
Baguio,Cainta,Pasig, Quezon City

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Studio Type 30sqm P2M 2932 Mega Plaza Facing Robinson Galleria Contact 687-2251 • 731-1586

QUEZON CITY

3br 158m² St. Ignatius P4M Neg. Text 0917-4149898

Cubao Condo P1.4M4381480

Resale Eastwood City Studio 1-3BR 0917-4149898

Rush!Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.8MNeg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

T/Hse Nr. Ateneo 426-0189

OTHER AREAS

BNEW ANTIPOLO
Townhomes, 2 or 3BR, 2T&B, near TownProper, with amenities•PROMO 10%DP SEE UNITS to APPRECIATE!
Call LYN (02)728-8049

LOT

ALABANG

Rush Sale Alabang Hills 770-4856/0916-5558120 Isa

MAKATI

M.Unidos Mkt 180sqm 563-1498

OFFICE SPACE

ERA REAL ESTATE
PRIME OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

MAKATI CBD, SALCEDO
- Petron MegaPlaza
- The World Centre
- Paseo Center
- Burgundy Corporate Center
- Citibank Tower
- 139 Corporate Center
- Multinational Bancorp Center

ORTIGAS CBD, PASIG
- Richmonde Plaza
- Tektite Tower

ED 0917-8479276
867-8913 to 17
www.ERAphilippines.com
A Global Network with Over 3,000 Offices Worldwide

LOT

MANDALUYONG

446sqm. Lot along Boni Ave., Ideal for bank, pawnshop or comm'l bldg P37T/sqm. neg. 531-1384/0390 ANDREW/JOY (0917) 834-2759

PASIG

★Greenmdows 980m² 4121825★

QUEZON CITY

272 sqm. TBELLA TSORA cor COMMONWEALTH T-9313523

ACROPOLIS NICE CORNER LOT AM Sun P38T/sqm 6337601-03

500sqm Filinvest II 951-4536

Fairview Pearl St 1300M 8756749 • 8974641 Rush

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view
VISTA VERDE 2sty conc
P4.2M 929-1832 • 426-5650

RIZAL

Antipolo 730m² 1.5M 7443465

OTHER AREAS

AMPARO SUBD. 610sqm 1.525M Contact Jo Santos 8723784 Cel# 09198130658

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

One **BEATRIZ** Tower
1st Class COMM.-OFFICE RES'L CONDO
AURORA /LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
FOR SALE OR LEASE
NEAR ATENEO • UP • MIRIAM • KOSTKA • PSBA • NCBA
1st CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S. Pool, Gym, Sauna & Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN FOR ONLY 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
For INQUIRIES & CONDO TEL RESERVATIONS CALL:
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

READY FOR OCCUPANCY

EMERALD TWR
COR TUAZON & J.P. RIZAL ST. PROJ. 4 QUEZON CITY
NEAR U.P. • ATENEO MIRIAM COLLEGE
OFF. / RES'L. CONDO
SALE OR LEASE TO OWN
P1.3M-UP EASY TERMS
ONLY 100T TO MOVE IN
437-1549 • 421-3105
We are open from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

LOT

OTHER AREAS

★Various Lot frm Subic 2 Sta. Cruz, Zambales pt. 09197437410

CAVITE

150m² METRO SOUTH CAVITE P2000/m² T3722540

VALENZUELA

RUSH!! 150m² nr church mrkt 8909718 ; 09193384431 Lyn

BUSINESS SPACE

700m² Res or Industry W. Capitol 0917-4149898

MEMORIAL LOT

★Loyola Marikina 2adj. lawn 412-1825★

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

CITILAND 3
28.36 sqm
Arlene 711-8080

CITILAND 8
3 BR unit, 2 office
Arlene 711-8080

MANILA

UNIVERSITY BELT COMM'L SPACES G/F 170qm 145sqm Mezz 240sqm 122sqm Arlene 711-8080

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

EVACOM 2RM 5416226 DHEL

QUEZON CITY

Scout Area, 35T New 4BR 2PK nr Timog/MRT 4578041

RIZAL

2Sty 3br 3tb Vis-Verde Cainta 2407254 • 6560015

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L
CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup
NO ASSOCIATION DUES•NO RENT Increase for 2yrs. • with tel & cable lines #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan. Call Zeny 323-0175 •3507750-52 Tintin 527-7616

MAKATI

RITZ TOWERS 11th Flr Ayala 180sqm newly renovated semi furnished 7402451 7402527 7401466 LOTLOT

SALCEDO PARK 36th Flr. 180sqm. Brand new 3BR 2 Car Parking 7402451 7402527 / 7401466 LOTLOT

MANILA

1BR 5637395 09175180316

RUSH RENT NR. ROBINSON FURN. STUD T0917-9160226

PASAY

Condo: Fully Furn, 2BR, 2TB, Tel Line, Mds Rm-Unit 1208 Sunset View Twr Roxas Blvd. 0917-8376059 0917-6169063

PASIG

FOR RENT -PASIG
Alexandra Condo. 3br 5cr w/Tel, CATV, 2 Basement Parking Fully Furn, Panoramic View of Antipolo Hills Call 632-9311

QUEZON CITY

QC Condo P2500Up 417-1754

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

2BR 1TB 1Pkng • 531-6263

QUEZON CITY

2BR COMM'L RESD'L ALONG JPNY LINE NR MKT SCH 9279844

Cubao P3.5 std Lady 4381480

•P4.8T STUDIO T-926-7383

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

Near Tektite Call • 688-8246

BEDSPACE

1 Male Asapl 1,300/mo. Nr DILG Office Edsa QC 0917-7953871

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Plamo 38/62/129/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

SAL BUS REM 09195137286

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

★Ortigas Ctr★ 70m² 20T 103m² 25T w/partitions A/C 412-1825

★Jollibee Plza★109.19m² a/c lights/carpk 18th flr 412-1825

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MAKATI

RUSH SALE/RENT NR. AYALA CTR. 4 GARAGE T-8908681

COMPANY NURSE

- MUST BE LICENSED
- 23-30 YEARS OLD
- BRING BIO-DATA, PICTURE AND LICENSE

#15 VICTORIA HILLS ST., SFDM, QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO. 411-15-04/05

ATTN!!! Students, Reviewers, Affiliates, Bed Spacers & transient Boarders - Fully furnished **LADIES DORMITORY** now open to serve you at the back of UST, **NEAR UNIVERSITY BELT**, FEU, UE, SAN BEDA, at 1311 Geliños St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Tel. # (02) - 741-1390 or CP # 09185322385

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

Starex 98 1st Owner 11 Seater 500Th •924-6293•

MITSUBISHI

1992 Mitsubishi Pajero, Diesel Imported Duties /Taxes Unpaid Call Susan /Siony 8126904 • 8126927 9AM-3PM Wkdays up to Feb. 28 only

SPORTSMAN Runing condition 98T neg. 272-7813

SUZUKI

2001 GRAND VITARA V6 2.5L P915K Neg Tel#8132083

TOYOTA

•TOWNACE 185T 926-7383

XL '96 Toyota (Private Used) Mags, A/C, Leather, New Tire, Battery, #87 N. Cuevas Street Kalawaan, Pasig City

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Hi-Town Hi Ace Safari Trooper Mu Delica Elf Canter etc A1 warranty trade in ok 9120647 / 09178342020 Glen

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

'13 Rim good for Toyota 0916-5352867

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus • Call 631-3496

'02 CRV 4 Hire 724-7627 Rose

ABC CARS/VANS
NEW MODEL ALL BRANDS
SELFDRIVE OR WITH DRIVER
MANILA 536-8822 • 303-9789
TIMOG Q.C. 426-2278 • 426-4084

A.TOYCO-UDRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VANS RENTALS 800-6595

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

Grandia Pregio L3 825-4058

HI-ACE L300 4561218 / 9296250

SELFDRIVE W/DRIVER CARS VANS REVO COASTER BUS 8908667 • 8908668 • 8908669

L300 T7411356

MARIAN 8969956 CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX MB HIACE 827-6605

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

MYATT
RENT-A-CAR
LOW RATES BRAND NEW CAR VANS W/. OR W/O DRIVER
CALL: 750-2282; 844-6800

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

★FASTCARLOAN 3735851/52

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty Bnew 8014494/8020566

COMPUTER

P4 NoDP / BN 0919-2631208

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
CASH 0917-8142309 • 7269687• 7220433 • 4123543

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390004 8390060

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

BEAUTY CONSULTANT 527-1590

Cashier 22-30yo call 4344305 fr. 10am-2pm

DomesticHelper,Beautician 8432595

F-ESCORT 0916-4044479

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Acknowledgment Receipt Nos. 0250-0350 consisting of 2 Booklets are reported missing. The public is advised that World Touch Training & Development Center Inc. will not honor such receipts.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 CECIL

Earn as much as 7 figures a year!
Attend our free seminars at
SM MANILA SM SOUTHMALL SM BACOOR
PACIFIC MALL (LEGAZPI)
ALABANG & SAN PEDRO
Join us. We're the Largest!
PHILAMLIFE-ANTONIO
Tel.8928970 Cell 09178433758

FREE Care Giver Seminar 4043528 5638009

Graphic Artist 723-8732

★ Office Staff / Personnel ★ 18-45yo w/wo exp Start ASAP Direct Hire 9121488 Mr Dave

HRDSTF MONA 09172507143

JAP. Rest. Sta Rosa, Laguna HIRING FOR: Supervisor, Chief Cook, Kitchen Crew, Waitress, Accountant, Cashier 897-8423

MERCHANDISERS 527-1590

Ofc Staff 09186532375Ms.Mer

OFC STAFF 18-45 M/F Coll. Grad/ Level w/-or w/ o exp Call SHIE # 437-0454

Ofc Staff/HRD Start ASAP w/ w/o exp 7279971 Mr. Boan

OFFICE STAFF 09192535523 GLENDA

SALES EXECUTIVE
ORTIGAS OFFICE
687-7070 • 687-1010

We need food CHEMIST apply at 2000 GBTG Bldg. Nat'l. H-Way Canlalay Binan Laguna 5202907 (Seasoning)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ESTELA V. DE GUZMAN** a parcel of land Lot1-C Blk 27 (GLRO) Rec. No. 7681 TCT-RT 497351(144550) containing an area of 157.50 sqm under TD No. D-08500431 situated at Diliman Q.C. has been extrajudicially settled with waiver renunciation of rights among her heirs as per Doc# 229 Page# 59 Book# IV series of 2002 before Atty. Arvin Antoni Tacloban City
(PDI-Feb 24, Mar 3 & 10, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

United Coconut Planters Bank
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Fifteen (15) booklets of UCPB Manager's Checks bearing serial numbers SAF 0000016501-0000017250 and Twenty Five (25) bklts. of UCPB FCDU Passbook (Form #4-3306) bearing serial numbers 143504-143528.

The above missing forms, in the custody of the courier at the time of loss have been cancelled and invalidated and transactions covered by them shall be dishonored.

(Sgd.) TERESITA V. RIVERA
AVP- Corporate Services Division

(PDI – Feb. 17, 24 & March 3, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Damaso Igarta & the late Patrocinia M. Igarta has been extrajudicially settled by their heir on Feb. 20, 2003 under Doc. 241, Page 49, Book XXIII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Gaudencio S. Mercado (PDI-Feb. 24, March, 3, 10, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ROQUE DE LOS REYES has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs with sale per Doc. 261, Page 54, Book X, series of 1989 of Notary Public Paterno G. Tiamson.
(PDI-Feb. 10, 17, & 24 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given for the Loss of Celebrity (Sports) Plaza Inc. Stock Cert. # A0010 (corporate" A") issued to Beguet Rocks Agro Industrial Devt. Corp. If no contest received, New Certificate will be Issued PDI- Feb. 17,24 & March 3, 2003

Notice of Lost - ACR#E052593 ICR275430 Issued to Robert Teng See (PDI-Feb. 24, 25, '03)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ARE YOU OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL MARKET Email:augustsc@singnet.com.sg

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

EARN Fr Home P/F Time 8376068

•TRVL N WORK FR HOME• 8531008 0917-8901851I travelandworkfromhome.com

Internet Cards TRI-ISYS 35% Blast39% Pacific40% Infocom 33% I-Tipid32% Gas29% 255-2608

PART TIME BUSINESS EARN UP TO 15,000 A MONTH WORKING PART TIME 4HRS/DAY TEL.847-6341 0919-8935423

Teens&Adult Wear 09193952974

Reach Out to
100,000 People Daily
FREE!

YOU CAN
TAKE ME
HOME

Install **Photographic Images** on all your delivery trucks and experience **FREE** advertising for your products.

Magnum Graphics Corp.
Tels. 913-3766 913-3876 912-0317 912-1104

Name:__________ Tel:__________
Address:__________
Company:__________ Fax:__________

☐ Photo Billboards ☐ Photo Van Billboards ☐ Tri-Vision Stickers
☐ Photo Banners ☐ Photo Standees ☐ Floor Graphics

For all interested parties fill this up and fax to **438-1588**, and receive a **FREE** gift.

ARE YOU READY?
LG netopia
Internet Café
SUMMER GAMING CHALLENGE 2003
presented by
Lipton Ice Tea
JOB Market
Come home to ABC
amdg
107.5FM
over P 2.5 Million in prizes!
Registration: Feb. 17 Onwards
www.netopia.ph
DSL Hi-Velocity Internet
ComWorks,Inc.
ALTEC LANSING
PLDT BUSINESS convergence @ work
KICKERS
molecules
ATRIUM HOTEL
SMART Uninterruptible Power Supply

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
MANDALUYONG CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
TAT LAKEHILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. : REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES
REGISTRANT

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2003, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and in behalf of the TAT LAKEHILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. (Corporation) for the registration of its Five Thousand (5,000) No Par Value Shares, composed of 1,200 Class "A" Shares, 800 Class "B" Shares, inclusive of 15 Founder's Shares, 1,800 Class "C" Shares, and 1,200 Class "D" Shares, out of which Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five (4,985) shares owned and subscribed by the Selling Shareholders, TAT Development, Inc. and TAT International Co., Ltd., will be offered to the public, on secondary basis at an offer price of Four Thousand Pesos (PhP4,000.00) per share for Classes "A" and "B", and Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) per share for Classes "C" and "D".

According to the papers/documents presented, the following are the incorporators/directors of the Corporation:

Name	Position
TSUTOMU MUGURUMA	Director/President
EMILY DOMICHI	Director/Comptroller
MIHO OTA	Director/Operating Officer
MARITES GURIMBAO	Director/Finance Officer
HIROFUMI HOTTA	Director
ROSELILY TORRIJOS	Corporate Secretary

Said Registration Statement and other papers, documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

for: Justina F. Callangan
Director
Corporate and Finance Department
Securities & Exchange Commission
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

(PDI – Feb. 24, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GARGANERA

DUCALA

GUTUAL

Mr. Leo T. Garganera, Mr. Roy D. Ducala and Mr. Rolando N. Gutual (picture from left to right) are no longer connected with Maxiklin Carpet Cleaning effective 01 January 2003. Maxiklin Carpet Cleaning will not be liable to any transaction entered into by above individuals for the firm from said date.

(PDI--Feb. 24, 2003)

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES
P.O. BOX 4230 • MCC P.O. BOX 3029
CABLE ADDRESS: UNIBANK • PHONES: 8119000

Notice of Deferment
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Annual Stockholders' Meeting

Notice is hereby given that in view of the unresolved cases still pending before the Sandiganbayan, the Board of Directors of UCPB has decided to defer the regular annual stockholders' meeting of the Bank, scheduled for March 4, 2003.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Jose A. Barcelon**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Feb. 24, 2003)

Send your resumé instantly.
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Travel Agency Immediate Hiring
1-5 yrs. Inbound & Outbound Exp.
Speaking Chinese is an Advantage
Manager; Rsvn. & Tktg.; Counter Sales
Call Sally, Minda @ 4005891 / 5361995

OBITUARIES

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

GLORIA BARILEA VDA DE DIARESCO

Died: February 18, 2003

Her body lies in state at Chapel I, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at 3 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

From her loving children Nellie, Erlinda, Marilou, Betty, Helen, Rene, Teresita & Daisy, children-in-law, grandchildren, nephews & nieces.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

RAUL "LUY KIM THONG" TAN

Who joined our Creator in the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ on February 08, 2003.

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

NANETTE R. DE CASTRO

(U. P. Law Class '74)

Daughter of the late **Rafael G. De Castro** and the late **Monica R. De Castro** of Bulan, Sorsogon

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 53 on February 17, 2003 at Maryland, U.S.A.

Her bereaved brother, **Gary R. De Castro** and his wife, **Mirvi D. De Castro**, together with their children **Gerard**, **Michael**, **Margaret**, **Gianna** and **Farhad;** her relatives, classmates and friends request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Arrangements are being made for her remains to lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe on Monday and Tuesday, February 24 and 25, 2003.

Thereafter, the remains will be brought home to Bulan, Sorsogon where necrological services will be held at the R. G. de Castro Colleges on Friday, February 28, 2003 at 8:00 a.m.
Final Mass will be held at the Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Bulan, at 10:00 a.m.

Interment will follow at the Bulan Civil Cemetery.

Elvira Dizon Del Rosario

January 25, 1923 – February 22, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 22, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her beloved husband **Francisco, Sr. (†)**; children **Boyet** and **Marisa**, **Leah** and **Rene**, **Boy** and **Luz**; grandchildren **Miguel**, **Kimi**, **Ana**, **Raffy**, **Martin**, **Leo**, **Cheska** and **Kiko III**; sister **Edilberta**; sister-in-law **Lourdes**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence, 1056 M. Naval St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at the Navotas Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

ANSBERT INES PAULINO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 22, 2003.

His son **Miko**; mother **Sylvia**; sisters, brothers, in-laws, nieces & nephews **Cecile**, **Ling**, **Omar & Enzo**, **Blue**, **Emy**, **EC**, **Oel**, **Kaye & Daniel**, **Gabby**, **Bel**, **Marti & Sergio**, **Ming**, **Charlie & Gica**; good friend **Maribeth** and relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at San Felipe Neri Parish, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Interment will be on February 25, 2003 at San Felipe Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass.

ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ DOMINGO

"TIYO ESTONG"

of Sumacab, Cabanatuan City and
Project 8, Quezon City
September 8, 1916 – February 22, 2003

Husband of **PAYAPA DE BELEN DOMINGO (†)**; Father of **Lito** and **Nancy**, **Nitz** and **Bobbi Jo**, **Analie**, **Flor (†)**, **Tito** and **Lily** and **Angelique**.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

Cremation will be on Wednesday 26th of February 2003, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City.

ROSARIO P. VALDEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on 22 February 2003.

Her children **Mel**, **Desh** and **Rod**, **Nelson** and **Diane** and **Bheng**, and grandchildren **Jeffrey**, **Joseph**, **Raymond**, **Krystal**, **Kyra**, **Kathlyn** and **Kashima**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-B, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST
THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave.,
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683;
781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086;
(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City;
Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor.
Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133;
Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38
loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan,
Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St.,
Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguillan Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046)
471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676;
Telefax 941-3577
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
74-M Naval Street, Tangos,
Navotas, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 283-1618
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal;
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City;
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783;
(0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867: 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, CHAPEL and SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870;
Tel. No. 6970282; 6507426; 6970026;
Fax No. 6972764
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St.,
Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue
517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801;
845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Now's the time for a Nissan

THERE is no better time than today to buy a Nissan Sentra Exalta, Sentra GX and Serena through Nissan's High Technology, Great Value promo. Promising the easiest ways to acquire your favorite Nissan models, the promo also makes available technologically advanced features that set Nissans apart from other brands.

Technologies such as Variable Timing Control (VTC), engine micro-finishing, timing chain driven valve train, Electronic Automatic Transaxle (E-Auto) and Zone Body Concept are as innovative as the acquisition and financing packages available.

"In this promo we want to highlight the fact that Nissans have superior innovative technologies that not only enhance performance and safety but also reliability," explains vice-president for marketing and sales Vir Diwa. "Such technologies as robotic welding and painting and the 11-dip paint process extend Nissan's quality and durability. And we are now making these available to the market through this promo."

High Technology, Great Value provides new 0-percent interest terms for the Serena, Just Pay the Down for all models and super low down plans for as little as P71,250. These packages make acquiring the Nissan of choice easier. Free chattel mortgage and one-year comprehensive insurance comes with selected plans.

Topping the models available in the promo is the Serena Q-RV, known by enthusiasts for its "car-like performance and van-like space." The recreational vehicle accelerates like a car with its 2.0-liter engine inherited from Nissan's sports car line-up. Its fully flexible, fold-flat seats and the large access doors on both sides make it the perfect people hauler.

The Sentra Exalta Grandeur and Superio are also included. These excellent sedans, known for their high-performance engines and class-leading Multi-Link Beam suspension system edges out the competition in terms of overall driving experience.

The Nissan Sentra 1.3 GX sets itself apart with in the entry-level car with its classy chromed front grille, well-appointed two-tone interiors, a four-spoke steering wheel, all-fabric seats, a radio-cassette audio system standard in a full-size Exalta body. Flat black body and bumper moldings accent any of the 5 available luscious colors. Alloy wheels are standard on the automatic transmission variant.

The Nissan High Technology, Great Value promo runs until Feb. 28 only at all authorized Nissan dealers nationwide.

ANC OFFICIAL IFBE 2003 TV PARTNER
The ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) has agreed to become the official television partner of the 5th International Food and Beverage Exposition 2003, organized by Fairs & More Inc (FMI) and Time Foundation Inc (TFI). The show will be held from June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center Manila. Key executives of the respective parties formalized their agreement through a contract signing held Jan. 14. Shown are Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian (FMI VP and COO), Henry Schumacher (ECCP VP), Ces Drilon (director, ABS-CBN business news group), engineer Cesar L. Lim (Time Foundation president), and Kharen Limfueco (TFI project assistant). More details can be obtained at 845-1324 or 687-0604, or by visiting www.foodandbeverageexpo.com.

ESTANISLAO SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATED
A plaque of appreciation was awarded by Manolo Abrina, president of the Wag-wag Club, to former barangay captain Ruben G. Estanislao of Barangay Libis, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija, for being one of the principal sponsors in the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of Wag-wag Club of Munoz Dec. 28. Estanislao is now residing in Brentwood, California. Estanislao is represented here by Cristy Zabala of San Carlos, Pangasinan. Witnessing the proceedings are Dr. Frederick Ruiz (left), Munoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez and Vice Mayor Alvarez.

Woodcarvers Festival 2003 in Benguet

ANDREAS Stihl AG of Germany, world famous manufacturer of forestry and garden power tools, is sponsoring the first ever "Woodcarvers Festival" in the Philippines. The event, to be held at the municipal hall grounds of La Trinidad, Benguet, from Feb. 27 to March 1, is being organized by Mountain Builders Commercial and Deutsche Motorgeräte Inc., authorized dealer and exclusive Philippine distributor of Stihl, respectively.

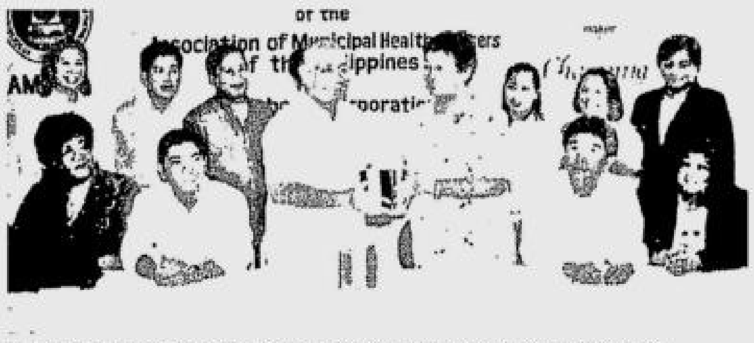
The 3-day affair is being coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region office and the municipal government of La Trinidad. The Festival is a brainchild of Gregory K. Loy, general manager of Mountain Builders Commercial and aims to uplift the woodcarving industry in Region 1 by showcasing the talent, skill, creativity and artistry of the local woodcarvers. The event also aims to bridge the gap between the DENR and the local craftsmen by conducting a symposium on Republic Act 9175 known as the Chainsaw Act of 2002. Another symposium on forest management will also highlight the opening ceremonies scheduled on Feb. 27 starting 8 a.m. Local dignitaries and guests have been invited. Mayor Nestor Fongwan of La Trinidad has been requested to deliver the welcome remarks.

The organizers hope that the success of this pilot project will transpose into a nationwide event that will eventually choose the first Philippine representatives to the World Logging Championships held annually in Europe or the Timbersports Series in the United States.

The competition will involve compulsory and freestyle woodcarving events using a small chainsaw and chisels. Cutting events have also been included to test the precision and control skills of the local woodcarvers. All events will be under time pressure. Points will be given to each contestant based on their performance in each stage to determine the best six contestants. The overall winners of the competition will be awarded cash prizes, trophies and Stihl merchandise during awarding and closing ceremonies scheduled in the afternoon of March 1. Special prizes will also be awarded to fastest times and the best carvers.

With the town fiesta of La Trinidad just a few days away, the organizers hope that the event could become an annual attraction that will draw local as well as foreign tourist to come and visit La Trinidad.

STCMHS '68'S 'GROOVY REUNION'
Alumnae of St. Theresa's College, Manila, High School '68 (STCMHS '68) recently held its 'Groovy Reunion' at the Traders Hotel on Roxas Boulevard with their families. A 15-minute solo performance of Sampaguita, a former Theresian of the same batch, and the launch of 'Epilogue' highlighted the event. STCMHS '68 will be one of the featured jubilarians in the forthcoming St. Theresa's College Manila Homecoming. Shown are (from left) Cynthia Galindo, Nenette Claudio, Sally Gonzales and Mariquit Soriano. Theresians and their families are urged to attend the homecoming. Tickets are available at the STAA-Manila office at 740-1810, or with Susie Rueda (635-2743) and Cecile Perlas (372-0601).


of the
Association of Municipal Health Officers
of the Philippines

HERBCARE SUPPORTS OPERATION: DIABETES
Operation: Diabetes, a nationwide diabetes awareness campaign, was recently launched by the Association of Municipal Health Officers (Amhop) together with Herbcare Corp., maker of Charantia Ampalaya Food Supplement, in response to the rapid increase of diabetes incidence in the country. Amhop president Dr. Guia G. Abad said it has completed an audio-visual presentation in VCDs on diabetes available for free to all municipal and city health officers and other institutions willing to help disseminate information about diabetes. For information, call the Operation: Diabetes secretariat at 802-2222. Shown are Lito Abelarde, president of Herbcare Corp. handing out the VCD copies to Abad and the members of Amhop.

ProductFILES

Crush Gear now on TV

CRUSH Gear, the coolest toy craze in town, is now a TV series which can be seen at Cartoon Network every Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. The cartoon program started Feb. 15.

The TV series features amazing 4-wheel-drive machines which can be geared up for battle. Marino Kouya, the lead character, is joined by his friends Oriza Jiro, Jin Kyosuke and Marume Koroudo.

Crush Gear items are distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc, and are available in leading department stores.

BITS Clips

PISM seminars

THE PHILIPPINE Institute for Supply Management (PISM, formerly Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines) holds its annual conference from Feb. 26 to 28 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Dubbed SupplyLink 2003, the conference and trade exhibit is themed "Taking the Supply Chain to New Heights". This offers you and your company to go to a higher level of awareness, preparedness and strength to weather the challenges. Bayantrade, Transprocure Corp., Yaletrak Philippines Inc., Freemarkets Asia Private Limited, EXE Technologies, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., The Manila Times, Ford Group Philippines Inc., Petron Corp. and SSI Schaefer Systems International Inc. sponsor SupplyLink 2003. For more information, call 634-6632, 634-5942, or 634-5955.

PMA monthly meet set

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association (PMA) will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m. at the Skytop of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila in Makati City. In line with this year's theme "New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," marketing guru Dr. Eduardo "Ned" Roberto talks on "Managing Research Data to Our Advantage." He talks about the importance of knowing market segments-how big it is, the right ones to target and their buying habits. Roberto is currently chair and president of Roberto & Associates Inc., a marketing research and consulting agency. He has authored 9 books on marketing. He was a recipient of the PMA Agora Awards for Achievement in Marketing Education in 1983.

Sec. Reyes briefing

"A BRIEFING on Peace and Security" by Secretary of Defense Angelo Reyes will be held on Feb. 26, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Apec Communications Building, University of Asia and the Pacific, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center. The briefing is part of the continuing education series of the Strategic Business Economics Program (SBEP), and will also serve as a get-together of its current participants and alumni with top government officials. SBEP is co-organized by the UA&P School of Management and the School of Economics. It has been set up to provide senior executives with the economics foundation needed to enable their organizations to realize strategic goals. The Commission on Higher Education recognizes SBEP as a full graduate degree program. For inquiries on Reyes' briefing, call the SBEP secretariat at 6342820 or 6343095.

HOMECOMING CORE GROUP
De La Salle University (DLSU) alumni meet to plan the upcoming '(May) Verde Ka Pa Ba?!' homecoming for DLSU class of 1978 on March 1 at the Taft Avenue campus. Co-celebrants are batches '43, '53, '63, '83 and '93 from grade school, high school and college. Activities of the reunion include video presentations by classes '68 and '73, a campus tour and a variety program. Attendees of the reunion may also expect music from Route 70, a band composed of La Salle alumni. Shown, seated, from left, are Teddy Valerio, Francis Pandaraoan, Kel Pascual, Rocky Razon, Angel Santiago-Rosales, Cherry Mapua-Osmena, Omy Yaptinsay, Lito Tanjuatco, and Mike Estaniel. Standing, from left, are Noel Leyco and John Ranjo. For more information, call the De La Salle Alumni Office at 523-6158, fax 524-0503, or e-mail John Ranjo at dlsaa@dlsu.edu.ph.

INNOVATIONS
2003
HardiPlank
FIBER CEMENT EXTERNAL WALL CLADDING

JAMES HARDIE SUPPORTS WORLDBEX 2003
James Hardie, maker of HardiPlank, the leading fiber cement external wall cladding, recently expressed its support to Worldbex 2003, the 8th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition, by being one of its official sponsors. Shown (from left), are Worldbex Services International (WSI) vice president Edward Diamonon, WSI executive director architect Francisco Flameno, WSI founding chair Joseph Ang, James Hardie president John Balass, and vice president for sales and marketing Rob Kidd. Worldbex 2003, slated from March 19 to 23 at the World Trade Center and Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City, is the largest building and construction trade show, with WSI as the organizer. For more information, call WSI at 531-6374, 531-6350 and 534-3611, fax 533-2026, e-mail shows@worldbex.ph or log on to www.worldbex.com.

Martin Nievera makes a difference

ALTHOUGH cancer may have debilitating physical, emotional and financial effects, many forms of cancer are curable, if discovered early and treated properly.

For lymphoma and germ cell testicular cancer, the curable rate is pegged from 30 percent to over 90 percent if given the proper treatment. The sad reality is a great number of Filipinos cannot afford the cure.

Taking the cudgels for impoverished and cancer stricken Filipinos is the Hope for Cancer Cure Foundation. Through the foundation, patients stricken with lymphoma and germ cell testicular cancer are provided treatment at the Philippine General Hospital to fight and survive the disease. Once the foundation has adopted a patient, it will see him or her through the illness, and hopefully into cure.

The foundation envisions to include more cancer diseases and to extend its charitable reach to other public hospitals.

To jumpstart the generation of funds for the foundation, concert king Martin Nievera and respected composer Louie Ocampo will perform live for cancer victims at the PGH at the end of this month. Donations are most welcome, for these funds will be utilized for the research and procurement of medicines to be used for treatment of lymphoma and germ cell testicular cancer.

Donations can be coursed through the section of medical oncology, PGH, Taft Avenue, Manila, with telephone numbers 526-3775, or through Arleen Siscar, Security Bank Center, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati with telephone numbers 893-2645 or 47, fax 893-2625.

InfoTech

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Leo Magno

No conspiracy between Microsoft, Intel in mobile phones: Intel CEO

By Leo Magno

SAN JOSE, California—The entry of Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. into the mobile cellular phone market are two separate corporate strategies that should not be seen as a start of a new monopoly, according to Intel CEO Craig Barrett.

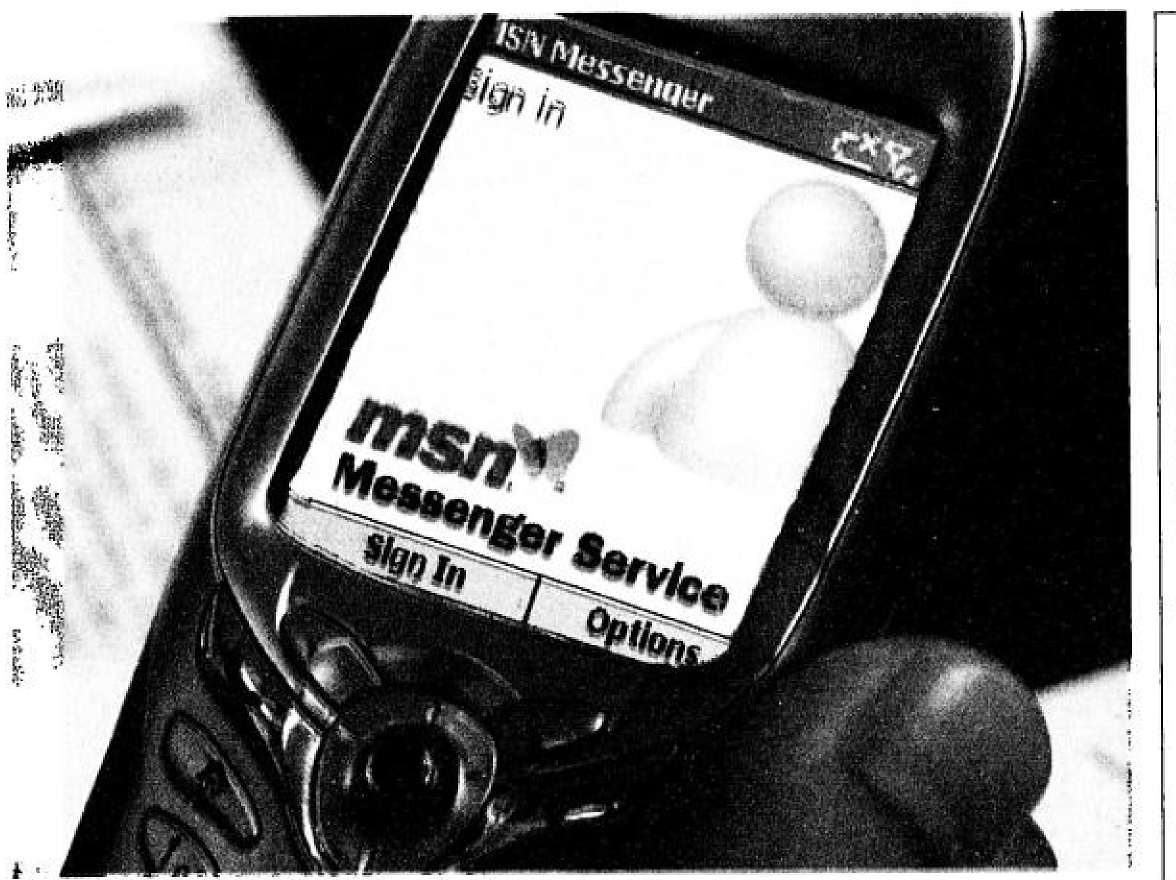
While Intel is holding its biannual developers' forum here, telecommunications companies are discussing the future of the mobile phone industry at Cannes, France. Mobile phone manufacturers and operators at the 3GSM conference in France are debating a new threat in the market: the entry of non-traditional competitors such as Intel and Microsoft.

Intel recently announced the PXA800F cellular phone processor —formerly known as Manitoba— which integrates communications functions via GSM (Global Standard for Mobile communications) and GPRS (General Packet Radio System), four megabytes of flash memory and computing capabilities on a single chip. The result is a highly programmable and fast-processing chip with lots of memory as a platform for future data-intensive cellular phones. This blends in with Microsoft's so-called "smartphone" initiative, which uses a light version of Microsoft's operating system for use in mobile phones.

The resulting tandem, critics say, could lead to another monopoly similar to "Wintel"—the use of the Windows operating system on Intel chips—which could force traditional phone companies to be mere makers of "clone phones" based on a new Wintel platform on the cellular phone.

Barrett, however, stressed that Intel's strategies are independent of that of Microsoft.

"Intel is selling integrated chips to the market because we believe the cellular phone market is becoming more data-intensive. Microsoft is looking at it as a market for their software. But we are not married and tied together," Barrett said in response to a question from INQ7.net. "We're working independently on a variety of platforms and moving independently on different operating systems."



FIRST Microsoft-powered smartphone in Asia

"Manitoba is the perfect example of the convergence of computing with communications," he added. "But we have always been OS-agnostic. We support the Symbian OS, Windows, Palm and Linux."

Still, the move of Intel and Microsoft to the mobile phone space is regarded as a natural migration from a saturated and poorly performing personal computer market. Traditional phone manufacturers—which usually develop their own operating systems based on their own hardware designs—now fear that they would be pushed into a position of being mere original equipment manufacturers (OEM) while Microsoft and Intel get the core value of the underlying technology.

The PXA800F is set for mass commercial production later this year, but Microsoft's smartphone initiative started at least 18 months earlier when it was still codenamed "Stinger."

Microsoft first tapped UK phonemaker Sendo to create the Z100 Smartphone, but the partnership dissolved when the two companies filed lawsuits against each other, triggered by Sendo's claim that Microsoft was stealing the British firm's industry knowledge to gain entry into the mobile phone market. Sendo has since partnered with Nokia for a new smartphone based on the Nokia Series 60 software.

What's keeping Microsoft at bay, however, is the strong support of traditional cell phone makers for the Symbian operating system, the first mover in the smartphone industry.

At the 3GSM conference in France, Samsung of Korea announced that it is now an investor in Symbian. This makes five of the biggest cell phone makers part-owner of Symbian. Joining Samsung are Nokia of Finland, the Japanese-Swedish tandem of Sony-Ericsson, Siemens of Germany and Motorola of the United States. Samsung, however, is also working with Microsoft while Nokia also has its own OS alternative in the Series 60.

Microsoft, however, is getting its own wins. It has already signed up two European operators to carry their smartphone, one of which is T-Mobile. Recently, Smart Communications of the Philippines became Asia's first operator to announce a smartphone offering based on the Microsoft OS and manufactured under contract by High Tech Corp., the same OEM that will manufacture T-Mobile's smartphone handsets.

The Microsoft camp and the Symbian camp are fighting for a small yet fast-rising market. Only about 20 million out of the 405 million cellular phones out in the market today can deliver high-speed data services such as e-mail, Internet and games. This number, however, is 400 percent bigger than last year's figures. Microsoft even estimates that in three years, two out of five phones sold would be smart devices.

Barrett sees IT rebound, stresses wireless broadband

By Leo Magno

SAN JOSE, California—With the United States still in a recession and with war jitters shaking the stock market and causing companies to hold back on long-term expenditures, Intel Corp. CEO Craig Barrett still sees a rebound for the information technology industry.

Various takes on the industry have been offered in the last year, from negative to positive then back to negative again. Moreover, the promised rebound has remained just that—a promise—for the last 12 months.

However, Barrett said during the Intel Developer Forum here that the desire for technology is alive and well.

"Despite the bad profit and loss figures and low capital expenditures, the backbone will still carry more traffic—more digital information and more people dependent on the Internet for commercial and personal uses," said Barrett, who heads a $27-billion-a-year company that controls the brains behind most computer-based systems worldwide.

However, the CEO was cautious when asked what indicator would signal that the industry's mood is finally swinging from negative to positive.

"We know it has swung when it has already swung," he said. "All you need to do is drop a bomb on Iraq and tomorrow everything's going to be negative. The mood has swung only after about two quarters in a row (of positive results)."

Barrett added that the continued digitization of media and information in general is an obvious reason to be optimistic about an industry rebound.

"The digitization of content will create more opportunities," he said. "We should also keep an eye on the digital youth content—people below 20 who have grown up thinking that everything has been online since the beginning."

Market research firms echo Barrett's optimism. The Gartner Group predicts the IT industry to grow 7 percent this year, while International Data Corp. and Aberdeen predict a 2003 growth of 5.8 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

"The IT market is a $1.2 trillion industry, and that's 10 percent of the entire United States gross domestic product and one percent of the entire world GDP," Barrett said. "The global IT spending continues to be tremendous. There will be a billion Internet users and $10 trillion in e-commerce transactions by 2005, so despite the negative outlook there are still opportunities out there."

Barrett also cautioned that the United States might lag behind Asia in broadband and wireless adoption.

"In Japan they have fiber to homes at inexpensive prices per megabyte of download. Jordan holds the record for the most number of Internet cafés in one city block. In Dubai you have a good buildout of 802.11 hotspots and many Internet cafés in Asia already have wi-fi (wireless fidelity or wireless Internet connection). I mention this because the US is only starting to implement wi-fi in the universities, albeit slowly. The US will eventually realize that broadband in Asia can become a threat to the economy," he said.

Live your emotions in colour with SAGEM myX-5
* actual size
SAGEM
Technology in Action

- 80 Hi-Fi ringtones (up to 50 downloadable)
- High-resolution 256 colour graphic display
- GPRS • WAP
- Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS) that can combine text, pictures and sound in one message
- 100 SMS memory • 300 number directory
- Dual-band GSM 900/1800
- Vibrating alert • Hands Free facility
- Programmable one touch soft keys
- Interchangeable front & back covers
- 5 animated screensavers (up to 3 downloadable)
- 30 colour backdrops (up to 20 downloadable)
- 50 icons (up to 17 downloadable)

Technology in Action
www.planetsagem.com

For inquiries pls call 751-5197!

ABENSON'S 740-2686 Quad I, Makati • Park Square I • Ever Grand Central, Caloocan • Harrison Plaza • Ruston's Cubao • Farmers Plaza • Shangri-la Mall • Riverbank, Marikina • Ever Gotesco Commonwealth • Waltermart Pasong Tamo • Waltermart, E. Rodriguez • Waltermart Sta. Rosa Laguna • Waltermart Calamba **ADI TELECOMS** 372-1522 SM City North EDSA • SM Fairview • Farmer's Plaza Cubao • Park Square I • SM Bicutan • SM Southmall • SM Bacoor **CK CELLULAR** 922-2292 West Ave., Quezon City **CELLPHONES UNLIMITED** 850-1504 Festival Mall • SM Ayala, Cebu City Tech Theatre Mall, Greenhills • Virramall, Greenhills • **DIALCOMM** 635-4336 SM Megamall **DJGT** Theatre Mall, Greenhills **ELECTROWORLD** Festival Mall, Filinvest • Alabang Town Center **GAMES & GADGETS** 723-0928 SM City North EDSA • SM Fairview • SM Manila • SM Southmall • SM Bicutan • SM Pampanga **GLOBOTEL** 888-0105 Anson's Arcade Pasay Road **Maciel** 843-3062 Park Square I • Almeda Arcade, Pasay Road **MEGA CELLULAR NETWORK** 528-5151 to 53 Robinson's Manila • SM Manila • Farmer's Plaza • Festival Mall • Harrison Plaza • Robinson's East • Starmall • Robinson's Novaliches • Shangri-la Mall • SM City North EDSA • EGI Mall • **NETWORK ELECTRONICS CORP.** 722-8195 Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills • Festival Mall • Glorietta **TOPWIN TELECOMS** 818-0225 Cash & Carry Buendia • Virramall Greenhills • SM Centerpoint • SM City North EDSA • Robinson's East **VOICE STREAM** 914-3780 Shangri-la Mall • Glorietta • Duty Free NAIA **ULB INTERNATIONAL** 635-7546 SM City North EDSA • SM Fairview • SM Megamall • SM Southmall • Virramall, Greenhills • SM Centerpoint • SM Manila • SM Cebu • Sta. Lucia East Mall **WELLCOM TELECOM SUPERMARKET** 889-0041 Tutuban Centermall • The Market Place Shopping Mall • Ever Gotesco Commonwealth • SM Southmall • Festival Mall • SM City Fairview • Waltermart Center E. Rodiguez, QC • Robinson's Place, Imus • Waltermart Center, Sta. Rosa Laguna • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall • Goldcrest • SM Bacoor • SM Centerpoint • Metropolis Alabang • SM City Manila • SM City North EDSA • Waltermart Gen. Trias, Cavite • Olivares Plaza, Los Baños Laguna • Ever Gotesco, Ortigas **WIRELESS CONNECTION** 638-1111 SM Megamall • Shangri-la Mall • SM Southmall • SM Centerpoint

PNP website hacked

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

FOR THE THIRD time in a week, the official website of the Philippine National Police (PNP) at www.pnp.gov.ph was defaced Saturday.

The web defacers who left a message on the homepage, apparently wanted to call the attention of the site administrators for using an "unpatched" Microsoft operating system. An unpatched system means that the operating system has security holes.

"We just want to note that this server is using an unpatch *(sic)* Microsoft operating system. We do not intend to intrude, steal, or vandalize your server. Thank you and looking forward to upgrade your server. godspeed, though we pity your insecurities for you admins are paid by the taxes we pay," read the message left by the defacers on the PNP homepage.

The defacers signed themselves as "girbaud - tapsilog - balinghoy - bdayboy - GASUL - timtisis - ruben - deadaKus."

They also made a reference to the University of Santo Tomas (UST), saying "once a varsitarian, always a varsitarian." The Varsitarian is the official student publication of UST.

An official of the PNP Computer Services division, the group manning the website, said that it would soon terminate this old website and would replace it with a new site developed by a local firm.

A local group of hackers already defaced the PNP website on Feb. 18, 2003 following a similar attack on Feb. 15.

As of this writing, the PNP website remains defaced.

A hacker group, called "Level9 Team," altered the PNP's homepage content at www.pnp.gov.ph on Feb. 18 after compromising the agency's online complaint desk that was linked to the homepage.

"For Mr. System Admin of this server we are sorry about this...we don't do anything that can damage your beloved server ... we only tested it," the hackers announced on the defaced website at that time.

Earlier, an official admitted it was not the first time that hackers attacked the PNP website.

The PNP website was defaced last year, according to Police Insp. Antonio Delgado, head of the web development services section of the PNP Computer Services Division.

On Sunday afternoon, suspected local hackers defaced the PNP online complaint desk webpage located at http://203.131.100.218, in which the original content was replaced with the Valentine greeting, "Mahal kita (I love you)."

By Tuesday morning, the online complaint desk was restored.

However, the Tuesday afternoon attack led to the defacement of the homepage.

Delgado said that hackers were able to compromise the PNP's online complaint desk since security measures have not yet been in place. "The web development is ongoing...the website is not yet well protected," he lamented.

The PNP's online complaint desk runs on Microsoft Windows 2000 platform, added a staff member at the Computer Services division.

PNP/B19

Mysterious group offered to rig DBM IT project bidding—sources

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A MYSTERIOUS group offered to rig the bidding of the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) P250-million government electronic procurement (G-EPS) project in exchange for a cut in the total cost of the venture, several industry sources told INQ7.net last week.

The sources said the unknown group promised to secure the government contract if the bidders were willing to give it 15 percent of the allocated budget for the project when awarded. The offers were relayed to the bidders through telephone calls, the sources added.

In a separate interview, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin challenged the bidders to give her "leads" that would enable the agency to go after this unknown group.

"I could order an investigation but I don't have any leads," Boncodin told INQ7.net.

Boncodin added that she is "disturbed" with the revelation at this time when the agency is set to sign the contract with ITBF Philippines.

Members of the ITBF-led consortium include East West Electronic Trade Center Ltd., a foreign-owned company based in the Philippines; Right Computers; ABC Consulting and Infomediary.

ITBF Philippines won the project over Ayala Systems Technology Inc. (ASTI).

"If their intention is to ensnare the reputation of the DBM, and the credibility of the bidding process, I'm sorry but this disturbs me," said Boncodin, referring to the allegations against the project.

"I think it's so easy to say that (people had been offering to rig the bidding). But these people may be impostors. Con people are successful because some people are gullible," Boncodin stressed.

DBM replies

Meanwhile, Boncodin revealed that the agency has already prepared a statement to formally answer questions raised by losing bidder ASTI in a letter sent to the agency on January.

"We're preparing our stand on the issues raised, which are mostly policy issues. I have to consult some members of the Procurement Policy Board before we release the official answer (to ASTI)," Boncodin said.

In a letter sent to the DBM on Jan. 16—a day after the DBM announced the ITBF Philippines-led consortium as the winning bidder—ASTI raised concerns over ITBF's plans to host the mirror site (backup) of G-EPS in a location outside of the Philippines.

In the same interview, Boncodin said that she sees no problem with having a mirror website of the G-EPS hosted outside of the Philippines.

The G-EPS is a web-based system where eventually all Philippine government bids and procurement activities would be conducted.

"I see no problem with that," Boncodin told INQ7.net, reacting to questions raised by losing bidder ASTI.

"In information technology, there are no geographic borders. So in some instances, mirror websites (backup websites) are located in other countries for security," Boncodin added.

Boncodin said that the DBM has already prepared an official reply to ASTI's queries, and is only waiting word from the Procurement Policy Board before releasing the statement.

Members of the Procurement Policy Board include top-level officials of central agencies in government including the Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The ITBF consortium is composed of EWETC, a foreign-owned company based in the Philippines; Right Computers; ABC Consulting and Infomediary.

In ASTI's letter to Budget Assistant Secretary Eduardo Opida dated Jan. 16, 2003, the company wanted to confirm if the "production and mirror sites as proposed by EWETC are both going to be located in the Philippines."

ASTI raised similar concern on the mirror sites in an official letter to the DBM on Dec. 2, 2002, ASTI president Gery Favila said in an earlier interview with INQ7.net.

"This question has never been answered by the DBM officially," Favila said.

During a meeting with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and other agency officials on Jan. 21, 2003, Favila said that agency officials maintained that bid rules prevented them from answering any queries from bidders especially when the bid was still ongoing.

Mirror site concerns

In its letter, ASTI reiterated various concerns, such as the "impact of locating the mirror site overseas on the business recovery approach and the ability of the Philippine government to exercise full control over access to government-owned data."

"Clearly, having both sites in the Philippines would offer more advantages to the Philippine government," according to ASTI.

ASTI also noted that if EWETC is indeed hosting government procurement information overseas, the DBM has provisions in its terms of reference for the G-EPS project "that seem to imply that the production and mirror sites should be in the Philippines."

The letter went on to cite at least five specific provisions in the terms of reference given out to them as basis for designing their proposals to the agency.

One of the provisions states that the DBM-Procurement Service, the agency under the DBM mandated to oversee the G-EPS, "shall at all times and from time to time during normal office hours on reasonable notice be provided access to sites where deliverables or services are being developed, implemented or operated pursuant to this contract."

"It's important for the DBM to answer these questions, unless the agency considers data security as a trivial matter," Favila said.

ASTI stressed that no government would allow procurement information to be stored overseas, citing the government of Singapore as an example.

To these questions, Boncodin said that the DBM could have rejected ITBF's bid if provisions in the contract were violated.

"I think access does not mean that it has to be beside our office," Boncodin said.

Boncodin, however, believes that the matter of having a mirror website overseas is not a trivial issue, but needs to be studied very well by the agency.

Boncodin assured that DBM is not "hiding anything," saying that the bidding of the P250-million project was done in the fairest and most transparent way.

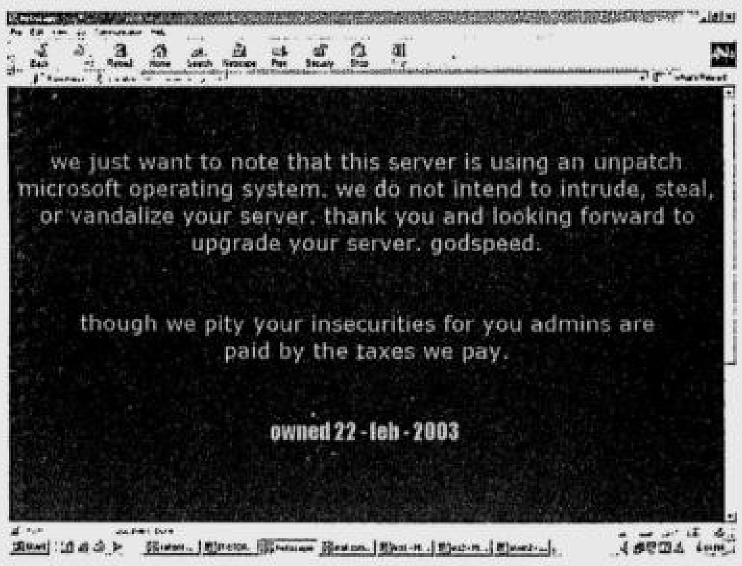
"There are no vested interests here. Not one person prevails in the evaluation of the bids," the official added.

ASTI, for its part, stressed that if the proposed mirror site of ITBF Philippines is overseas, the contractual provisions of the project would be difficult and impractical for the DBM to enforce.

BONCODIN

"This creates a situation that could be grossly disadvantageous to DBM," added Favila, stressing that all government purchases will eventually pass through the G-EPS.

The DBM expects to sign the contract with ITBF Philippines next month, Boncodin said.



we just want to note that this server is using an unpatch microsoft operating system. we do not intend to intrude, steal, or vandalize your server. thank you and looking forward to upgrade your server. godspeed.

though we pity your insecurities for you admins are paid by the taxes we pay.

owned 22 - feb - 2003

PNP website. . .

From page B18

Delgado said that the Computer Services division is scheduled to purchase software and hardware, including a firewall, to improve the security of the PNP website.

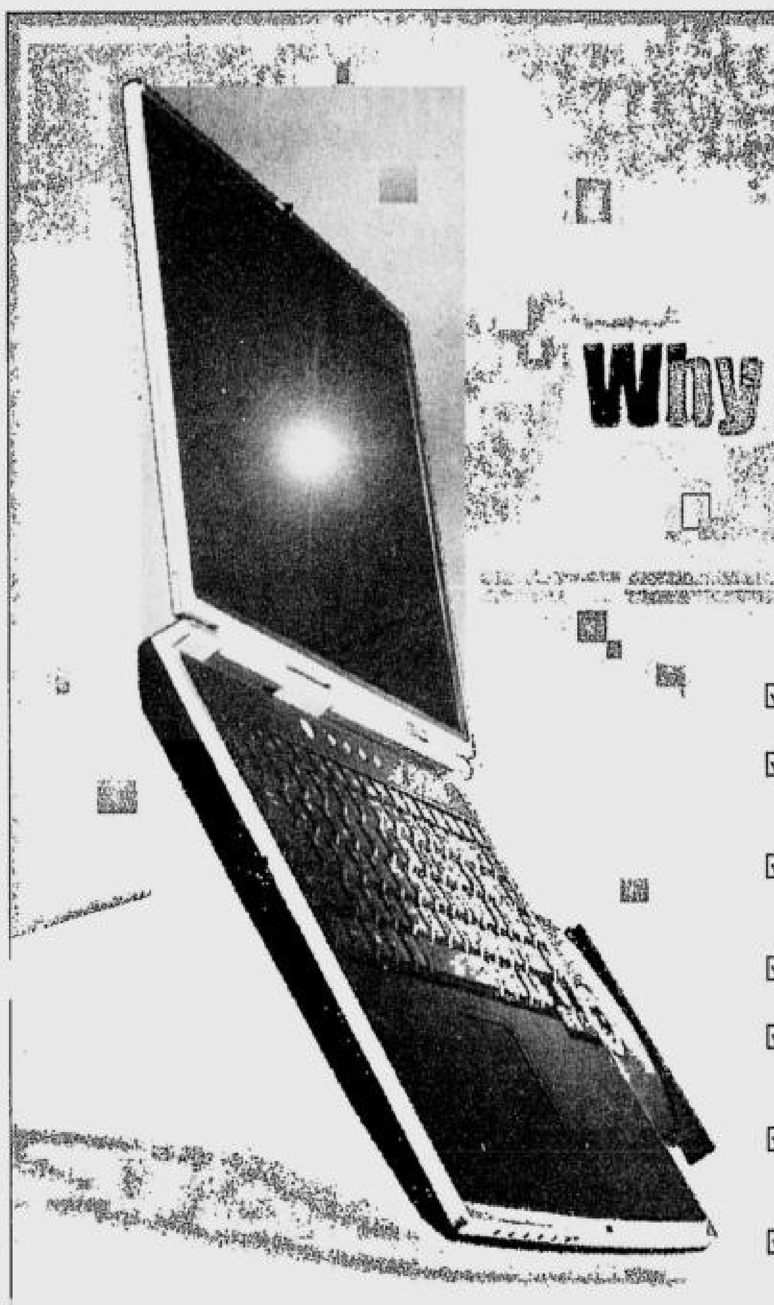
Asked how much damage the hackers caused, Delgado said it was rather "minimal."

"Attacks such as this are common. No matter how secure your website is, it will be compromised," Delgado added.

Delgado also noted that the hacker left electronic traces that would enable the agency to identify the source of the attack.

Currently, the defaced PNP website names the members of the Level9 team.

They are "ryan_the KIDS_KIDS, zhuanggii A_BlAcK_LisT, Killfinger AcCezZdENieD ucoxXx, kamesywara jhon_angga Head ^ Suckah, coldboyz Dapri coldboys, and Acetosal Aiorite." *With reports from Joey Alarilla*



ASUS
The Best Value Notebook PCs

Why is M2 a cut above the rest ?

☑ Versatile Intel® Pentium® 4 Mobile processor
☑ ASUS Power4 Gear™ and Intel® SpeedStep™ technology for longer battery life
☑ Hot-swappable options for on the go drive change even while the unit is on
☑ Durable and light magnesium alloy casing
☑ 50% less weight than the average notebook PC, enhancing mobility at 2 kgs.
☑ Dual 1394 Firewire Port for high speed data transfer and flexibility
☑ Unique thermal design to prevent overheating-ASUS Dynamic Thermal Dissipation (ADTD™)
☑ Audio DJ for instant audio CD playback even when system is off
☑ 12 International Awards

The World's Thinnest & Lightest P4 Mobile PC

128 MB DDR RAM • 14.1" TFT Active LCD Display • 32 MB VRAM (1024 x 768 XGA) • 20 GB Hard Disk Drive (internal) • 1.44 MB Floppy Drive (hot-swappable) • 8x DVD-ROM (hot-swappable) • PCMCIA 2.1 COMPLIANT • One type II/I • Windows XP (Home Edition) • 2.0 kgs. • 306 x 246 x 22 mm • Audio DJ • 56k V.90 + LAN 10/100 Mbps • 2x 1394 Firewire Port • FREE: USB Mouse, Carry Bag, Trend PC-Cillin Anti-Virus, Headset, IBM Via Voice

Hot Swap Options
2nd HDD
Optical Drive
Floppy Disk Drive

EXTRA 128 MB DDR RAM
plus
EXTRA Slim External 20 GB Notebook Hard Disk Drive
(USB Compatible)
For this month only

Intel® Pentium® 4-M 1.8 GHz P 95,500

Also available in Windows XP Professional and Windows 2000 Operating Systems

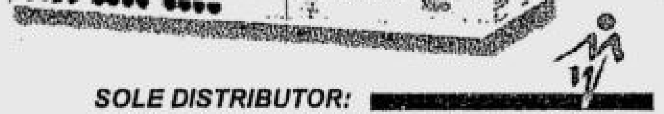
Innovative Solutions for a Limitless Tomorrow

www.asus.com
Service Hotline: Manila (02) 724-9998 loc. 1408
Authorized Philippine Distributor:
BANBROS COMMERCIAL, INC.

Manila :(02) 727-8009 loc. 1826 / 724-9998 loc. 1920 / 718-2808 E-mail us at: asusnb@meridiantelekoms.net Cebu: (032)415-6733 /415-6737 / 233-2016 / 233-1516 E-mail us at: bolcebu@pacific.net.ph

COMPlink (02) 632-9896 TCA (02) 637-1200 SILICON VALLEY (02) 371-5611 to 19 VillMan (02) 892-2222

CEBU: THINKING TOOLS, INC. (032) 254-2227 • XCOMP COMPUTER SALES SERVICE (032) 253-8808 • WIRED SYSTEM (032) 255-5282



3com

3Com Superstack 3 Baseline 10/100 Switch 24 Port

AMAZING DEAL!

P30,800 Now only P19,990

Get the best value for your money with the special deal on 3Com Superstack 3 Baseline 10/100 Switch 24 Port.

- Wirespeed Switching at 3.5 Million packets per second
- IEEE 802.1p prioritization—with two priority queues per port
- Automatic MDI/MDIX on all ports
- Limited lifetime warranty

Available at the following Authorized 3Com Resellers:
Manila: Silicon Valley 371-5611 to 20 •Villman Computer System 929-0411/892-2222 •Creative Technologies 400-2005 •Microphase 812-5015 •Northgate 724-4387/215-847/812-5015
Cebu: Ng Khai 3462926/2324546 •Thinking Tools Inc. 2542227/2341788 •Cebu Compumasters 2551622 to 22 •Columbia Computer Center-Davao 2211475/2211678 •Gold Telecom Specialist- 2324762

Promo period is from February 17 to March 29, 2003. You may order from our 3Com Network Partners or you may email us at sales@microwarehouse.com.ph

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR: MICROWAREHOUSE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0276 Series of 2003

FOR OUR FIRST
100,000
SUBSCRIBERS

₱2.00
PER MINUTE ON CALLS

₱0.50
CENTAVOS
PER TEXT

FOR SIX
MONTHS
SUN TO SUN

SUN CELLULAR SIGNALS A NEW DAY IN CELLULAR

Soon, Sun Cellular will rise. Enjoy a great deal by becoming one of our first 100,000 subscribers. Simply sign up today, no cash out, no commitments. And if you subscribe within 45 days from launch, you will enjoy unbelievably low rates for Sun to Sun calls and text for 6 MONTHS! P2/min on calls, P0.50 centavos/text! This is available to postpaid and prepaid subscriptions, whether you purchase SIM cards only or SIM cards plus handsets. Be one of Sun Cellular's Pioneers and enjoy a new day in cellular service.

To sign-up, bring a valid ID and find us at the following locations starting February 22 until March 9, 2003.

The SUN Shops: Robinsons Galleria 4th Flr • SM North EDSA Ground Flr Carpark Bldg • Robinsons Metro East Big R Lobby • SM Southmall Level 2 • Robinsons Starmills Ground Flr • Robinsons Place Iloilo 2nd Flr • SM City Davao

Booths: Robinsons Place Manila Level 1 • Robinsons Place Novaliches Level 1 • Shangri-la Mall Level 1 • Festival Supermall 2nd Level • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Ground Level • The Enterprise Center Level 3(Feb 24-Mar 1) • RCBC Plaza Podium 3(Mar 3-8) • Robinsons Place Imus Level 1• Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa Level 1 •Robinsons Place Cebu Lower Ground • Robinsons Place Bacolod Level 1 • Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cagayan de Oro Level 2 • Gaisano Mall of Davao Upper Ground Level

You may also visit us at participating Digitel Customer Centers and accredited dealer stores or you may fax the coupon below together with a photocopy of your valid ID to (02) 395-2413. For more details, call our **Hotline** at (02) 395-8000, or visit us online at www.suncellular.com.ph

sun
CELLULAR

NAME: First Name ____ Middle Name ____ Last Name ____
BIRTHDAY: mm/dd/yy ____ **AGE:** ____ **GENDER:** ☐M ☐F **HOME PHONE:** ____
BILLING ADDRESS: House No. ____ Street ____ Subdivision ____
City/Municipality ____ ZIP Code ____ **OFFICE PHONE:** ____
COMPANY OR SCHOOL: ____ **OCCUPATION:** ____

Sluice Machine.
Attn: HOSPITALS. Nasty solid waste on cleaning sheets!!! The Sluice Machine is the answer!!!
- Washes heavily soiled linen.
- Increases hygienic standard.
- Regulates infection control.
- No personnel contamination.
- World's best practices.
- Wash results meets Int'l std.
- Available in various capacities.
Electrolux
LAUNDRY SYSTEMS
Text <sluice machine> & send to 0918-930-7686. We'll give a proposal/ brochure.
Showroom: ELS Phils.Inc, Unit105 Conservatory Bldg 605 Shaw Blvd Mandaluyong City, Tel. #: 718-21-82/83

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
BUSINESS*Monday*
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

acer
www.acer.com.ph

RP banks to bust bad loan problem

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IT WILL "save the banking sector from the financial fallout" of sour loans after the Asian crisis, says President Macapagal-Arroyo.

She explains that the banks are troubled by more than P300 billion in bad loans and more than P200 billion in foreclosed assets. Coming to the rescue is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) law signed last month.

SPVs or asset management companies buy a bank's non-earning assets at a discount, turn them around, and resell them. This lets banks turn bad assets into cash and helps them clean up their books.

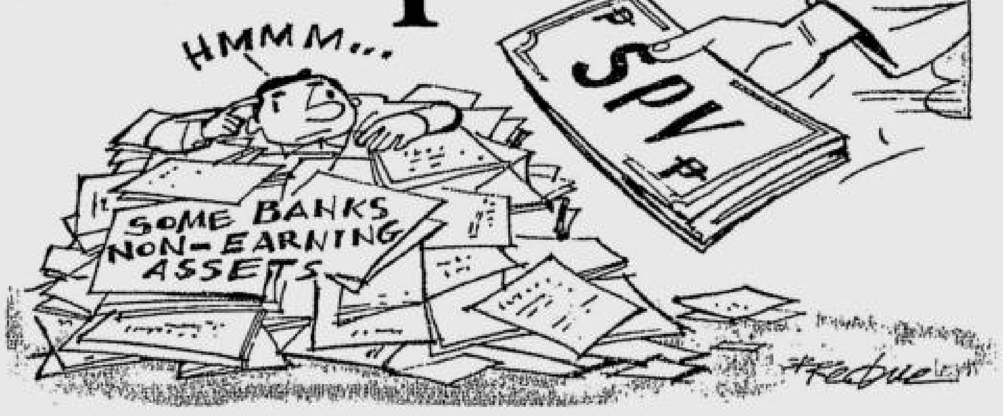
The potential for change is vast. As of September 2002, commercial banks are burdened with non-earning assets that account for 16.5 percent of total loans.

The Bangko Sentral has long been nervous about the volume of sour loans and idle assets.

The law in turn will allow the banks to charge their losses against their taxes. It also exempts SPV firms from the capital gains tax, the creditable withholding income tax and the value added tax.

"The SPV should bring in new money to revive bad loans, find new

RP/ C3



Express Advice to all BPI Express Phone Users

Now, you can autoload your Globe Prepaid anytime, anywhere through Express Phone 89-100!

And you may get the chance to WIN a NOKIA 7650!

Or be one of 100 lucky winners of an Express Cash Card loaded with ₱1,000

Built-in digital camera, big screen color display, send and receive photo messages

Call 89-100 now and dial "0" to speak to a phonebanker.

Promo runs February 15, 2003 to March 31, 2003

It's easy to join!
1. If you are a BPI Express Teller cardholder, simply enroll your active Globe Prepaid account for autoloading via Express Phone from February 15 to March 31, 2003. If you don't have a BPI Express Teller card yet, you are still qualified to win if you open an account now and enroll in Express Phone.
2. Use the Express Phone to autoload your Prepaid account within the promo period. Each time you autoload, you will receive an acknowledgement number which is also your raffle number.
3. There are 5 brand-new Nokia 7650s (units only) to be won plus 100 Globe Express Cash Cards loaded with ₱1,000 each.
4. Watch out for the raffle draw on April 11, 2003 at 10:00 AM at the BPI Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

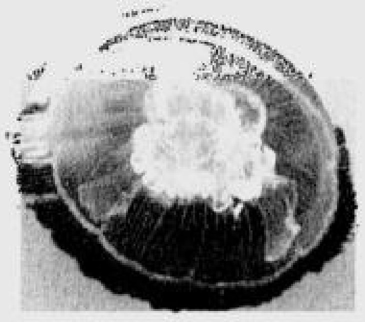
See flyers for details or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0180 Series of 2003

"The moment I started using Diesel Max, I noticed that there was hardly any smoke."
- Marc Ablaza, *Baguio*
DIESEL MAX
Above all diesels.



Need network provider security?

Ang sarap maging Pilipino!

MAPping THE FUTURE

Tony Tan Caktiong

I AM honored to be included in a list of very distinguished Management Man of the Year awardees. I never dreamt of this when we came out with our first hamburgers. The truth is, in 1975, the farthest things from my mind were hamburgers. I wasn't even thinking restaurants. I was thinking about engineering and marriage. In fact, I was trying to engineer a marriage. I succeeded, and suddenly I realized I would have to make a living.

A school field trip took me to the Magnolia Ice Cream Plant in Quezon City. But what caught my attention was the announcement on the wall that said Magnolia was looking for franchisees. I thought maybe this was the answer to my financial needs.

With our pooled resources of just P350,000, we were able to fund our new business. At that time we were just one among the many such parlors, ice cream being a favorite among Filipinos. Then we noticed that our customers kept on asking us if we served anything hot because they didn't want to eat something cold with an empty stomach. Soon, our customers were eating more of the spaghetti and hamburgers that we offered, and less of the ice cream.

Birth of Jollibee

So we decided to convert the ice cream parlor to a hamburger house, and we needed a symbol to represent us. We thought of the bee because it symbolizes hard work and produces sweet things in life, which is honey. But if you are not happy with what you are working hard for, then it's not worth it. So we added the word "jolly." Thus was born Jollibee.

We incorporated Jollibee in 1978, exactly 25 years ago. Even before that, when my brothers and I were in high school, I cannot forget how my father would prod us to wash dishes, buss tables, and clean the toilet in his restaurant in Davao.

Being the typical teenagers that we were, we weren't so excited about that, not knowing that we were learning a lot from the experience—learnings that would be put to good use in Jollibee.

A lot of people have been asking me how we were able to compete with McDonald's. I always reply that our products really taste good—*langhap sarap*, as we oftentimes say. My father once said, if you're in the tailoring business, the cut of the suits that you make should be just right.

And he said, if you're in the restaurant business, then your food should taste good. It's that simple. We've always had great tasting food in mind in Jollibee.

I remember during McDonald's first years in the Philippines, I would bring home two burgers, ours and theirs, to compare the tastes.

Going against the giant

When my eldest son—about 2 years old then—would naughtily call my attention while I'm busy with the taste tests, I would give him the burgers, one after the other.

I noticed that if it was McDonald's, my little boy would leave it after just a bite and continue with his naughty ways. But when it was Jollibee, he would sit down quietly and finish it! I knew then that we had a good chance.

We have come a long way these past 25 years but we see it as a beginning. From a mom-and-pop operation with just six employees in 1978, by the end of 2002, we have grown to some 40,000 employees working at nearly 900 Jollibee, Greenwich, Chowking, Delifrance and, just recently, Tomi Teriyaki Japanese Restaurant outlets.

We now have stores in eight different countries. We've noticed that there is a lot of bland food in countries around the world, and we view that as an opportunity. We are looking at some major foreign markets. And we will explore those markets with the same motivation that we had when we were just starting—a motivation that has become a mission to us: To bring great taste and happiness to everyone.

Jollibee is Filipino, and we are very proud of it. We can use the strengths of being Filipino to achieve a world-class organization that would be able to compete globally.

Jollibee is also committed to serving the community. We've worked with Habitat for Humanity Philippines in the last two years to build a total of 60 houses for its beneficiary families.

Sacrifices

When I look back on our experience, I can say that we went through a lot of sacrifices. But these pale in comparison to the sacrifice recently demonstrated by our President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Allow me to thank you, Madame President for giving us an inspiring example of what sacrifice means for the sake of national unity and progress. We in the Jollibee Group of Companies support your drive for a reformed nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, in behalf of the JFC Group of Companies, thank you very much for the distinct honor that you have bestowed upon me today. I would like to share this award with the entire executive team at Jollibee, my brothers and sisters and their spouses who have been active in the company from the very beginning, our business partners, and our employees who make it possible for us to make our customers happy every day.

I also wish to share this award with those who offered me their wisdom and experience. I would also like to thank my wife who helped create Jollibee's vision, imparted the right work ethics, listened and gave advice when there were issues, and provided comfort all along; and to my children for eating so many burgers.

Their patience and understanding allowed me to give more time to the business than to them. Finally, my sincerest gratitude goes to my father and mother who each in their own ways served as our guiding spirits all these years.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay. Ang sarap maging Pilipino!

(The author is the "Management Man of the Year" awardee for 2002 of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and CEO of Jollibee Foods Corp. The article contains the speech delivered by the author when he accepted the award recently in Malacañang. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Airline jobs lose luster in a changed industry

NEW YORK—The sight of a smartly uniformed airline captain made such an impression on young Richard "Nick" Louis that he decided right then, at the age of 10, to become a pilot.

"I was part of the old breed who pointed up at the sky saying 'That's what I want to do,'" said Louis, who is now retired. "That's the way my career started out, the romantic days where . . . it was always sort of a challenge whether you'd get there or not." But, nearly half a century later, the exoticism and wonder that once defined air travel—and those who worked in the business—has dissipated into a collective groan, as flying has morphed from a luxurious status-enhancer into a hassle-filled form of mass transit.

Cheaper tickets have made jetting cross-country a reality for the general public. And as the passengers became less prominent and worldly, so have the flight crews themselves.

The desperate state of the airlines, crippled by more than $7 billion in losses for two straight years, has added new fears of wage cuts and layoffs into the mix.

It's a different world, but Louis, 59, says he can still see that uniformed air captain in his mind's eye, and feel the excitement and reverence he sensed the first day he sat in the cockpit as a pilot for United Airlines.

"But in my 31 years, maybe I had five minutes where I could breathe easy. It was just no fun anymore," said Louis, who retired at age 53. "After 31 years, I quit seven years early."

Some of that romance has been kept alive by numerous Hollywood movies that formed idealized—if dated—images of daredevil airline captains and gorgeous flight attendants that persist today. Steven Spielberg's recent film "Catch Me If You Can" is a recent example.

But gone are the days when the sight of pilots and flight attendants ducking smartly in and out of airport taxis left children awestruck and their parents envious.

To most passengers today, air travel itself is not part of the fun of getting away, but an obstacle course of ticket counter hassles and security checks. *Reuters*

The Elegance of Pearl White
XUVi
ISUZU
Crosswind
XUVi
Limited Edition
ISUZU
Your responsible partner
Pearl White body color

www.isuzuphil.com

Gasp wide-eyed with this awesome pearl white beauty that illuminates in a splash of color when hit by light.

Get carried away with its sporty, functional accessories that boast innovation and style.

Then, impress her with its luxurious, elegant interiors like only her loveliness parallels.

The Isuzu Crosswind XUVi Limited Edition

Durably, reliably, unmistakably Isuzu, wrapped in the elegance of Pearl.

The Isuzu Crosswind XUVI Limited Edition was the FIRST Filipino vehicle to be displayed at the world-renowned Tokyo Motorshow in October 2002.

BLUE SHADED WINDSHIELD VISOR

GENUINE IGNITE WINDOW VISORS

REAR SPOILER WITH DUAL HIGH-MOUNT BRAKE LAMP AND CHROME ACCENT

CHROME ALLOY WHEELS

CHROME OVERSIZED TAIL PIPE FINISHER

BLACK AND GRAY LEATHER ACCENTS

TITANIUM SILVER ACCENTS ON METER CLUSTER, CENTER PANEL AND WINDOW CONTROL BEZELS

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel: 807-17-88 Fax: 809-50-53 • PASIG Tel: 910-51-23 to 24 Fax: 910-51-22 • MANILA Tel: 562-46-01 Fax: 562-37-70 to 71 • COMMONWEALTH Tel: 453-28-77 Fax: 453-12-88 • MAKATI Tel: 819-12-13 Fax: 819-12-02 • INTECO QA City Tel: 920-31-74 Fax: 920-31-24 • INTECO EDSA Tel: 366-93-37 Fax: 366-93-35 LUZON CAVITE Tel: 472-21-45 to 46 Fax: 502-26-08 • BATANGAS Crossing Tel: (043) 778-12-25 Fax: (043) 778-22-13 • SAN PABLO Tel: (049) 562-82-00 Fax: (049) 562-99-96 • DAGUPAN Tel: (075) 522-03-58 Fax: (075) 523-48-25 • PAMPANGA Tel: (045) 860-12-10 Fax: (045) 860-01-45 • BULACAN Tel: (044) 766-41-40 Fax: (044) 795-23-42 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 463-82-15 Fax: (044) 463-82-14 • ISABELA Tel: (078) 634-50-46 Fax: (078) 634-52-09 VISAYAS BACOLOD Tel: (034) 441-20-50 Fax: (034) 441-07-77 • MANDAUE North Highway, Tel: (032) 346-30-90 Fax: (032) 346-30-46 • CEBU Tel: (032) 234-04-71 Fax: (032) 234-04-66 MINDANAO CAGAYAN Tel: (08822) 726-017 Fax: (08822) 726-017 • DAVAO Tel: (082) 297-33-44 Fax: (082) 298-00-86 Manufactured and distributed by: ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Tel. No. (049) 541-0224 • Fax Nos. 842-0202, (049) 541-0333

RP banks to bust bad loan problem

From page C1

uses for foreclosed assets, rehabilitate failed businesses, and open wide the lending windows again," says the President.

The SPV law will allow the banks to sell P200 billion in bad loans within only six months.

"This amount is only the initial bulk that is ready for disposition," says Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura. "It is a combination of non-earning loans and assets that have already been foreclosed."

Faster growth

Senate President Franklin Drilon, adds that the law will spur faster growth by encouraging private sector investments.

It will remove barriers to acquiring non-performing assets.

The Securities and Exchange Commission will serve as the regulatory authority. Before banks can sell their non-performing assets to an SPV, they need the approval of the SEC.

Reviving NSC

Banks are starting to take advantage of the law to sell their foreclosed assets.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the nation's second-largest lender, sold to investors P1.5 billion in foreclosed properties in 2002. As of last Dec. 17, the Ayala-led company had non-performing loans worth P16 billion, a tenth of its loan book.

With the SPV law, the bank is seeking to sell P10 billion worth of real estate assets to investors. These middle to high-end lots, condo units and houses are mostly in Metro Manila, nearby cities and in Cebu.

Private firms to benefit

Using the law, BPI is negotiating with foreign investors for the sale of these owned and acquired properties.

Firms are benefiting as well, as is the case with National Steel Corporation based in Iligan City. NSC failed to repay its P18 billion debts and thus had to shut down in 1999. This was a devastating blow to the local economy, as it knocked off 4,000 workers from their jobs.

Now comes an SPV to rehabilitate the giant steelmaker. The government incorporated a new firm called the Philippine New Steel Industries Inc. to take over and run NSC's plants.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, New Steel will dispose and lease out factory assets and will assume the liabilities of creditor shareholders.

This SPV is the means to resurrect National Steel assets under the operation of foreign companies. Firms from Hong Kong, mainland China, Malaysia, France and England are all interested in NSC.

Attracting capital

With the new law in place, the Philippines may be able to attract large capital investors. One is Cerberus Capital Management, a huge American asset management company and a leader in distressed debt and reorganization.

Cerberus had planned to invest $1 billion in the Philippines.

Half that sum went elsewhere after Congress initially failed to pass the law—Cerberus invested $ 500 million in Thailand instead, buying bad loans there. Hopefully the recent law will pull in the other $ 500 million.

Not so fast

Banks, however, may not be all that eager to dispose of their bad loans quickly. To do so at a large discount would shrink their capital base despite the tax breaks. A sudden contraction in capital may turn off the global finance community and worry the public.

So the banks will likely watch each other and take their time.

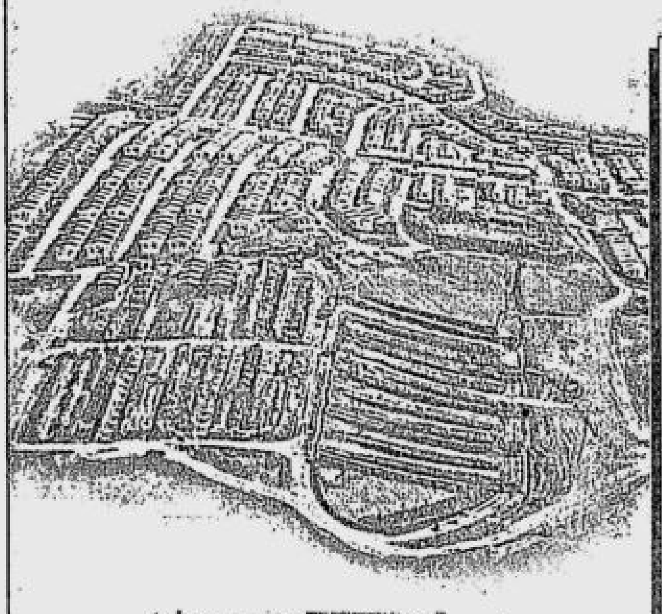
This relates to the issue of pace: suppose a bank sells its sour loans at a hefty discount. Must it deduct its losses from its capital all in one swift blow? Or can the deductions be staggered, so as to allow it time to recover its capital?

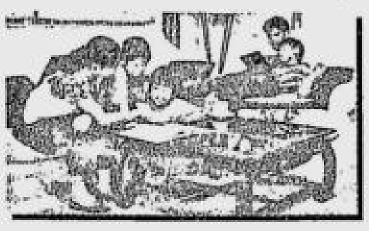
Bank mergers may also come up. In mid-sized banks, bad loans are less than the bank's total capital. In smaller banks, the sour loans are larger than their capital. If the small banks sell the non-performing loans, they may no longer be viable. Hence, it may make sense for them to merge with the bigger banks.

Finally, the SPV law is not a cure-all, even if it eases the burden of sour loans. Banks that sell their distressed assets will lose significant capital. It is their duty to infuse more capital to rebuild their depleted stock.

Comments to darroyo@philonline.com.

"Because every Filipino deserves a home"





Home Guaranty Corporation

PhP7,000,000,000
5 Year Zero-Coupon Bond Offering
Guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines

First Metro Investment Corporation
Issue Manager & Lead Underwriter

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
Lead Underwriter

ABN AMRO Bank, Inc.
Lead Arranger

Multinational Investment Bancorporation
Co-Lead Underwriter

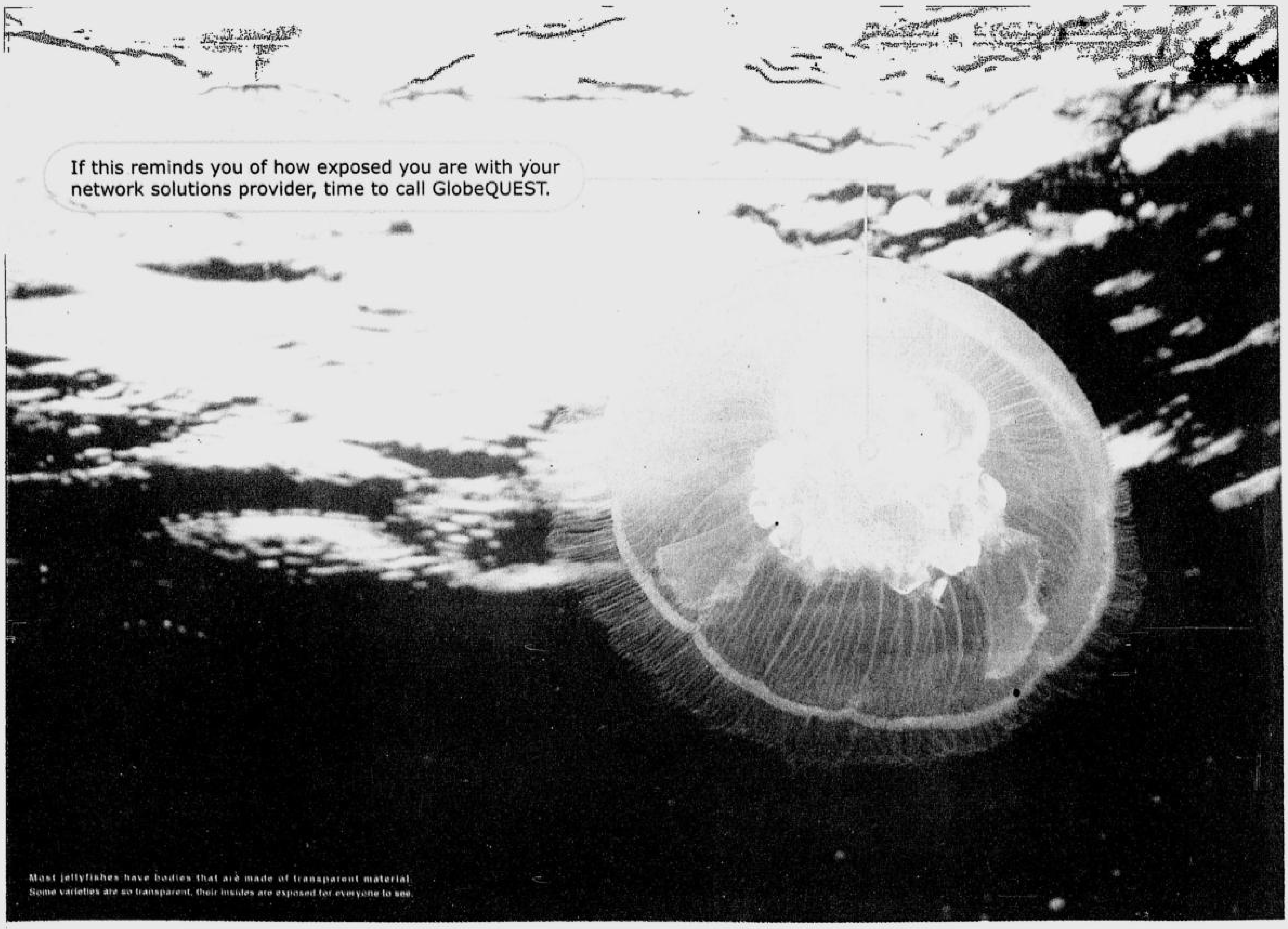
September 2002

With indications that the effects of the post 1997 Asian financial crisis are finally waning, the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), Government's sole guarantor of housing credits, found a favorable environment in 2002 to establish its foothold in the capital market and secure its position as a viable guaranty provider.

The recently issued HGC five-year Zero-Coupon Bonds were widely accepted. A clear indication of renewed confidence in HGC's ability to fulfill its mandate under the housing agenda of Government particularly in the area of housing finance.

The proceeds from the flotation were earmarked to service the guaranty claims of clients who were adversely affected by the slump in housing and real estate. The Zeroes shall be transformed into new investments and credits for the sustainability of housing provision for the Filipino family

Home Guaranty Corporation
Jade Bldg., 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
895-9011



If this reminds you of how exposed you are with your network solutions provider, time to call GlobeQUEST.
Most jellyfishes have bodies that are made of transparent material.
Some varieties are so transparent, their insides are exposed for everyone to see.

GlobeQUEST

Solutions that mean business

It's hard to swim ahead of competition if your network solutions provider exposes all your vital data for everyone to see. GlobeQUEST provides your company with business solutions that are unmatched in security and privacy. Our state-of-the-art technology and technically able staff assure you of that. Because unlike other providers, we make it our business to make your business secure.

PRIVATE NETWORKS • BROADBAND INTERNET • DATACENTRES • CORPORATE VOICE • BROADBAND ACCESS • DIAL
GLOBE TELECOM, INC. 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison Streets, 1552 Mandaluyong City, Philippines • Tel No. (632) 75QUEST (78378) • Fax No. (632) 739-3080
Cebu: Tel No. (032) 415-8950 • Fax No. (032) 415-8951 • Davao: Telefax: (082) 297-4829 • www.globequest.com.ph

GLOBE TELECOM

Gov't execs take economic message on the road

TRADE and Indsutry Secretary Manuel Roxas highlighted government's development plan for small and medium enterprises during the La Union briefing.

SENIOR officials from economic agencies such as the National Economic Development Authority, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the Departments of Trade and Industry, Budget and Management and Finance recently went to key cities in the country to brief local officials on the state of the domestic economy.

Dubbed as the "Yearend Economic Briefing" the roadshow kicked off in Manila (Dusit Hotel, Feb. 3), then moved on to Cebu City (Marriott Hotel, Feb. 5), Davao City (Marco Polo Hotel, Feb. 7), Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Olongapo City (Legenda Suites, Feb. 10) and San Fernando City, La Union (Oasis Country Resort, Feb. 12).

The roadshow drew much interest in the local business communities with SRO crowds of about 750 in Manila, 250 in Cebu City and 300 in Davao City. The Subic and La Union briefings generated audiences of 180 and 210, respectively.

The roadshow also served as a venue for dialog between the economic agencies and local business communities.

DBM Undersecretary Mario Relampagos discussed how the government spent the 2002 budget as well as the government's proposed budget in 2003.

Among the issues raised during the roadshow were: impact of the US-Iraq war on the Philippine economy; possible sanctions should Congress fail to amend the Anti-Money Laundering law, status of the government's anti-corruption campaign, government's fiscal performance and poverty reduction and employment generation programs.

The roadshow was organized by the government's Investor Relations Office, in coordination with the Branch Operations Office of BSP, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, DTI, Clark Development Corp., Office of the Press Secretary and Radio TV Malacañang.

THE ECONOMIC team discussed the economy's 2002 performance and programs and prospects for 2003. From left: NEDA Director General Romulo Neri, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, DBM Secretary Emilia Boncodin and DTI Undersecretary Gregory Domingo.

CANADIAN Embassy Trade Attache Peter Bale during the Q&A session in Manila

MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines President Edward Fereira, Monetary Board Member Melito Salazar and former BSP Governor Gabriel Singson were among the guests during the Manila briefing.

AROUND 750 guests from the business community, diplomatic corps and government attended the Yearend Economic Briefing in Manila, with some guests coming from as far as Hong Kong and Singapore.

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho presented fiscal accounts in Davao.

IRO Executive Director Corazon Guidote headed the team that organized the roadshow.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco in a huddle with RCBC's Prudencio Gesta, former President of the Cebu Bankers' Club.

DOF Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Zambales Vice Governor Ramon Lacbain discussed how local government units can help the national government improve revenue collections.

ALL ABOARD!

ABENSON
mercury drug
Gardan® 250
Metro Point
Century Tuna
PETRON
Henkel
Pascual
MANG TOMAS
Kimberly-Clark
STI
Heno de Pravia
SABA
Canon
UFC
PHILAM LIFE
ERICSSON
Wyeth
PSBank
GMA
CDO Karne Norte

More than 50 top companies have placed ads in Libre.
What do they know that you don't?

Aimed at 600,000 working class commuters of LRT and MRT, Inquirer Libre provides a captive audience with the time to read news and advertising messages. With its crisp, exciting articles and handy size, these early morning commuters no longer sleep or do nothing inside the train. When they get off the train, they pass on their copies to officemates, friends and other family members, thus, extending the reach of the paper. But the best thing about Libre is that it is FREE. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit.

The companies on board took the right vehicle to reach their market: Libre. So, what are you waiting for? Climb on board. For info on ad rates and other inquiries, call Izelle Medina (0918) 443-0941 or Jenny Rockwell (0917) 273-4103 to reserve your seat.

We've captured your market. Inquirer Libre

RP still a cellar dweller in technology race

By Raul C. Dancel

WHEN it comes to its ability to benefit from information and communication technology, the Philippines—despite its reputation as "text capital" of the world and huge IT capital outlay—is at the bottom of the heap, according to a study released by three international financial institutions last week.

The Philippines ranked 62nd in a survey of the "networked readiness" of 82 countries, still better than Indonesia and Vietnam but way below Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.

The country also trailed India, Thailand, China and even Sri Lanka.

The 335-page Global Information Technology Report by the World Economic Forum, World Bank and French international business school Insead used 64 criteria in its assessment, including the use of information and communications technology by individuals, governments and businesses to regulations and cabling.

The report aims to help governments make IT policies that will help them compete in the global economy.

"Since the first quarter of 2000, a profound shift has occurred in the field of information and communication technologies," Fiona Paua of the WEF, one of the authors of the study, said in an executive summary.

The study points out that share prices of technology companies have fallen to a small fraction of their peaks, with many going bankrupt.

"As the dust settles and the technology bubble dissipates, it is clear that many important lessons can be learned from what has transpired in the sector," said Paua.

She stressed that with the prospect of a prolonged global economic slump, "it is more important than ever to understand the contributions of ICT to economic growth and productivity."

The Philippines was identified as one of the "pockets of leadership" in Asia, but it was lumped with fellow tail-enders Indonesia and Vietnam. The first group in these "pockets" consisted of the "leaders in networked readiness," namely Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong, while Malaysia and Thailand were in the second group.

The Philippines has been regarded as the "text capital" of the world, with some 28 million short messages being sent daily, exceeding those sent in all of Europe.

The government has said it will begin institutionalizing the budget for its Internet-related projects next year.

Under the current arrangement, only 0.8 percent of the national budget is being set aside as information technology capital.

This year, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has approved the allotment of around 2 percent of each government agency's capital outlay and maintenance and other operating expenses budget for e-government projects.

The countries that scored best were those where government and business leaders were most flexible.

"We have seen the private sector accepting responsibility that used to be in the public sector and vice versa," Bruno Lanvin of the World Bank, another author of the study, said.

Finland ranked No. 1, beating the United States and Singapore.

Filling out the top 10 were Sweden, Iceland, Canada, Britain, Denmark, Taiwan and Germany.

The top 25 countries included 14 from western Europe, led by Scandinavia, and seven from Asia.

Beyond that were other "shining stars," including China in 43rd place.

"China has become a central player in the IT field, and we know that this role is going to become bigger in the years to come," Lanvin said.

The study was limited to 82 countries because of the lack of necessary data for other nations.

THE PHILIPPINES ranked 62nd in a survey of networked readiness of 82 countries.

Network Readiness Index

Country	Score	NRI Rank
Finland	5.92	1
United States	5.79	2
Singapore	5.74	3
Sweden	5.58	4
Iceland	5.51	5
Canada	5.44	6
United Kingdom	5.35	7
Denmark	5.33	8
Taiwan	5.31	9
Germany	5.29	10
Netherlands	5.26	11
Israel	5.22	12
Switzerland	5.18	13
Korea	5.10	14
Australia	5.04	15
Austria	5.01	16
Norway	5.00	17
Hong Kong SAR	4.99	18
France	4.97	19
Japan	4.95	20
Ireland	4.89	21
Belgium	4.83	22
New Zealand	4.70	23
Estonia	4.69	24
Spain	4.67	25
Italy	4.60	26
Luxembourg	4.55	27
Czech Republic	4.43	28
Brazil	4.40	29
Hungary	4.30	30
Portugal	4.28	31
Malaysia	4.28	32
Slovenia	4.23	33
Tunisia	4.16	34
Chile	4.14	35
South Africa	3.94	36
India	3.89	37
Latvia	3.87	38
Poland	3.85	39
Slovak Republic	3.85	40
Thailand	3.80	41
Greece	3.77	42
China	3.70	43
Botswana	3.68	44
Argentina	3.67	45
Lithuania	3.65	46
Mexico	3.63	47
Croatia	3.62	48
Costa Rica	3.57	49
Turkey	3.57	50
Jordan	3.51	51
Morocco	3.50	52
Namibia	3.47	53
Sri Lanka	3.45	54
Uruguay	3.45	55
Mauritius	3.44	56
Dominican Republic	3.40	57
Trinidad and Tobago	3.36	58
Colombia	3.33	59
Jamaica	3.31	60
Panama	3.30	61
Philippines	3.25	62
El Salvador	3.17	63
Indonesia	3.16	64
Egypt	3.13	65
Venezuela	3.11	66
Peru	3.10	67
Bulgaria	3.03	68
Russian Federation	2.99	69
Ukraine	2.98	70
Vietnam	2.96	71
Romania	2.66	72
Guatemala	2.63	73
Nigeria	2.62	74
Ecuador	2.60	75
Paraguay	2.54	76
Bangladesh	2.53	77
Bolivia	2.47	78
Nicaragua	2.44	79
Zimbabwe	2.42	80
Honduras	2.37	81
Haiti	2.07	82

SOURCE: GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

EPSON
THE POWER TO CREATE

Multi-function:
Scanner
Copier
Knife
Bottle opener
Cork screw
Printer

multi- pref. Many; much; multiple: multicolored. More than one: multiparous. More than two.
Fŭngk' sh ən- n. The action for which a person or thing is particularly fitted or employed. Biology- The physiological activity of an organ or body part. Computer Science- a procedure within an application.

- Repeat Function
- AutoFit Function
- up to 400% enlargement
- Interface : USB
- optimized 5760 dpi

EPSON STYLUS CX3100
Scanner resolution : 600x1200 dpi (optical resolution)
Ink Type : Dye-based ink
Ink Cartridges : 1x black ink, 1x color inks
Built-in Memory : 5.7 MB
Stand-alone copy speed
Economy mode(A4 Black text Memo) : up to 10.0 cpm
Economy mode(A4 Color text Memo) : up to 9.0 cpm

5760 dpi

DURABrite

EPSON STYLUS CX5100
Scanner resolution : 1200x2400 dpi (optical resolution)
Ink Type : Pigmented (Durabrite) based ink
Ink Cartridges : Individual Ink Cartridges
Built-in Memory : 12.3 MB
Stand-alone copy speed
Economy mode(A4 Black text Memo) : up to 15.0 cpm
Economy mode(A4 Color text Memo) : up to 5.0 cpm

For more information, Call us at: (632) 813-656[illegible] OR visit us at EPSON Square, 3/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall. http://www.epson.com.ph

Need network provider scalability?

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Pana January GMM, induction of 2003 officers and directors

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) once again shone out in dazzling glory as it held its first General Membership Meeting for the year and the induction of 2003 officers and board of directors Jan. 31 at the Manila Hotel.

The Maynila Ballroom, with its grandiose chandeliers and arrangements, was in harmony with the affair. The event's significance was evident in the formal presentation of the new set of officers and directors who would control the masts of Pana amidst the challenges ahead.

The 2003 officers are Gigi Rodriguez, president, Jones Campos, vice president, Jun Alcantara, treasurer, Susie Achacoso-Cruz, secretary, Atoy Babasa, auditor, and Sandra Garcia, PRO. The directors are Raul Alvarez, Sandra Puno, Emilio Samson, Angelica Suiza and Gina Virtusio.

The event's guest speaker was Senate President Franklin Drilon. In his message, Drilon pointed out a common goal in Pana's tenet and governance: both are in continuous search for the truth. In the side of the government, truth must be told in order for it to be credible. He then added the power of media in shaping the moral landscape of society. He posed a challenge for the advertising industry and media to come up with more quality advertisements and programs in order to have quality viewership.

After his message, Drilon inducted the new officers and directors. The Pana board of directors then gave a token of appreciation to Drilon.

The Pana Values Award for 2002 went to Globe Telecom for its "Katrina" TVC.

Gigi Rodriguez couldn't be more grateful to Pana members and industry friends as she thanked them for their undying support in her message. It is her vision to put Pana in a pedestal. With unity prevailing in the association, this would be realized.

The best in business attire for the afternoon's affair was awarded to Marvie Samala of Ban Kee Trading and Dodie Lucas of PLDT.

The highlight for the affair was the much-anticipated raffle where everyone was too eager to know what the surprise showcase of Manila Bulletin was. The audience wasn't able to contain its laughter as Pat Pineda unveiled the surprise: a Kaldereta Showcase for the year of the goat, complete with ingredients, cooking equipment, and of course, a live goat. Irene Carpena, winner of the showcase, was equally amused.

SPEAKER: HON. SEN.
SPO BY
IL

PANA executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon awards 2002 Pana president Gigi Rodriguez of Citibank NA and board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc. the medal for the most outstanding Pana member of 2002 during the general membership meeting at the Manila Hotel recently.

DRILON inducts Pana 2003 officers. Shown, from left, are executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, PRO Sandra Garcia of Shangri-La Plaza, VP Jones Campos of Globe Telecom, president Gigi Rodriguez of Citibank NA, Drilon, directors Jojo Samson of McDonald's and Raul Alvarez of PLDT. At the back row, from left, are board secretary Susie Achacoso Cruz of Godiva, director Sandra Puno of Nestle Philippines, treasurer Jun Alcantara of Asia Brewery Inc. and director Gina Virtusio of WG&A Superferry.

RELY San Agustin of Nike Philippines, Edwin Valera of MOD Magazine, Marvie Samala of Ban Kee Trading, Nanet Bonifacio of Marathon Publishing, Angie Padilla of Sara Lee Philippines, Rona Tejada of Total Petroleum, Valerie Ang of TotalFinaElf, Weevens Ty, Felino Neri, and Toto Aquino of Edsamail.

INQUIRER'S Pepito Olarte, Fred Reyes and Carleen Reyes of Godiva, Becky Dalan, Rene Reinoso of Inquirer, Cynthia Evidente of Globe Telecom, and Kenny Nuyda of Inquirer.

SEATED, from left, are Maloli Manalastas of ABS-CBN, lawyer Rudy Salalima of Globe Telecoms, Susie Achacoso-Cruz, Gigi Rodriguez, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Gabby Lopez, Jones Campos and Pat Pineda. Standing, from left, are Kenny Nuyda, Inquirer AVP, Sandra Puno, Sandra Garcia, Emilio Samson, Gina Virtusio, Raul Alvarez, Pepito Olarte, Inquirer VP, and Rene Reinoso, Inquirer SVP.

ANNA Malinis and Roe Quiambao of Electrolux, Rebecca Gulfin of IPI, Ager Kiocho and Tex Villena of Honda Philippines, Bobet Littaua of Sharp, Dodie Lucas of PLDT, and Dodo Reyes of Globe Telecom.

GUEST SPEAKER: HON. SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
MANILA BULLETIN

GLOBE'S 'KATRINA' TVC PANA VALUES WINNER

Globe Telecom was recently honored by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) with a plaque of recognition for being the overall winner of the 2002 Pana Values Award. The plaque was given during Pana's 1st General Membership Meeting and Induction of 2003 officers and board of directors at the Manila Hotel. Globe's winning ad was its TV commercial 'Katrina', which depicted a young girl's relationship with her parents. Pana cited the TVC as touching the hearts of viewers and contributing to the upliftment of family values. Shown is Globe Telecom SVP lawyer Rodolfo Salalima (front row, 2nd from right) receiving the plaque of recognition from Pana president Gigi Rodriguez of Citibank. With them are (front row, from left) Pana vice president Jones Campos, head of public relations of Globe Telecom, and Pana director Emilio Samson of McDonald's. Other Pana officers shown are (2nd row, from left) secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva, directors Angelica Suiza of Adidas and Sandra Puno of Nestle, (3rd row, from left) PRO Sandra Garcia of Shangri-La Plaza, treasurer AG Alcantara Jr. of Asia Brewery, directors Gina Virtusio of Superferry and Raul Alvarez of PLDT, and executive director Nonie Azarcon (background, hosting). Not shown is auditor Fortunato Babasa of The Andresons Group.

OAAP INDUCTION

The Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) recently held its induction ceremonies at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club Feb. 11. It was attended by Cerge M. Remonde, chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard) and concurrently the chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) and RPN 9 as guest of honor and speaker and inducting officer. Standing, from left, are associate representative Ramon Chua Joy (Fortune Electrical), director Ogie Buan (Astro Advertising), treasurer Danny Lim (United Neon), Visayas representative Mary Anne Alcordo-Solomon (Alcordo Advertising), director Toots Viray (Modagraphics Builders), director Lot Tan (Luxor International Trading), president Jun Perez (Admark Advertising), AdBoard chair Cerge Remonde, secretary Irish Sun (Okachi Neon), VP Frank Abueva (Advertising Associates) and PRO Carlo Llave (Fourth Dimension). Not shown is AVP Jay Daza (Da-Best Outdoor) and Mindanao representative Joey Chua (Western Advertising).

Bits & Clips

'PelikuLetran' ongoing

COLEGIO de San Juan de Letran is holding its 3rd "PelikuLetran", an annual short film festival that showcases the filmmaking skills and creativity of senior Communication Arts students. The festival will run from Feb. 24 to 26. The participating short films will be shown at the St. Thomas Hall (AVR) and Mabini Hall of Colegio de San Juan de Letran. There are 9 entries coming from three sections of Communication Arts Department for this year's festival. One of this year's entries is a film made by CA4A Barnyard Productions-"Kol Demama". Barnyard Productions is composed of Sharivell Paz, Irish May Santos, Nicolai Capistrano, Carmita Ramis, Jefrey Jacildo, Rosalie Salonga, Ellaine Rose Cifra, Mayvilyn Advincula, Mariel Dantes, Ma. Rhona Torreblanca, Jean Loraine Peña, and Daniel Dulalas.

PPTF's graphic arts seminars

THE PHILIPPINE Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF) announces its lineup of seminars. In Manila, Feb. 24 to March 5, "Production Planning and Control", Feb. 25 to March 1, "Digital Prepress Basics", March 4, 6, 8, "Basic Adobe Pagemaker 6.5", March 12 to 21, "Making it Successfully in the Printing Business", March 18, 20, 22, "Advanced Adobe Photoshop", and March 24 to April 14, "Managers Course for Printers". In Cebu, March 5 to 7, "Digital Prepress Basics". The "Digital Prepress Basics" seminars in Manila and Cebu will be handled by Bert Talens, Johan Tervile and Peter Luit. Manila seminars will be handled by experts Paulito Maskarino, Kristine Cleofe, and Au Kitane. Call Cristy at 713-2671 and 713-0902, e-mail pptf@tri-isys.com. In Cebu, call Gingging at the Printmart Cebu office at (32) 253-0045 or (32) 253-0237.

UPOU celebrates 8 years

The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) will celebrate its 8th anniversary on Feb. 25 with the theme "UPOU in the Digital Age." To observe the occasion, the university will hold various activities on Feb. 26 at the UPOU Headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna. A research forum featuring researches of UPOU faculty and staff members, and launching of UPOU books will be held, while an exhibit on UPOU program offerings and services will be open Feb. 26 to 28. On March 3, the exhibit will be transferred to the College of Education, UP Diliman. A free medical risk assessment and consultation will be also available to the UPOU faculty and staff. UPOU will also announce the winners of the First Digital Imaging Competition and give service awards to all UPOU staff members who had been with the university for five years.

AIM-MDM SETS NATIONAL CONFAB

In celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Master in Development Management Batch 2003 will hold a 2-day national conference on development management on March 3 and 4 at the AIM Conference Center along Paseo de Roxas Street in Makati City, with the theme 'Leadership and Development Management Strategies for Effective Social Change.' Shown is class president Henry Tenedero (2nd from left) handing over the confab blueprint to professor Tess del Rosario (3rd from left), associate dean of the AIM-School of Development Management. Looking on are MDM alumni coordinator Allan Ambil, MDM program director professor Edel Guiza, and MDM students Toti Dulay and Jadadip Singh. For inquiries, call Des Co at AIM alumni relations at 892-4011 local 540 or the MDM office at local 134/293.

ProductFiles

Home termite-free home

WHAT do thousands of Filipino homes, some Philippine historical sites, and the Statue of Liberty have in common? They are all protected against termite attack by Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System. The revolutionary baiting technology was developed by US-based Dow AgriSciences to get termites where they live by taking advantage of natural termite behavior.

Effective and nature-friendly, Sentricon was awarded by the Clinton administration for its commitment to keep the environment safe. Find out why Sentricon is touted by experts around the world as possibly your home's best protection against termites. Call 772-5006, or visit www.sentricon.com.

MOVEMENTS

New IIA president

Lilian S. Linsangan, audit partner of Punongbayan and Araullo, the third-largest CPA firm in the Philippines, was recently inducted as president of the Philippine Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

IIA is a worldwide organization of internal auditors which serves as the profession's watchdog and resource on significant auditing issues around the world.

Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia R. Bautista was the inducting officer.

ICTSI appoints new managers

International Container Terminal Services Inc. recently announced management appointments for the Manila International Container Terminal with the promotions of Lilibeth A. Bonga to administration manager and Christian R. Gonzalez to operations manager, and the appointment of William H. Gutierrez, manager, as customer relations manager.

As administration manager, Bonga now heads administration services, communications and records.

Bonga was formerly executive secretary at the Office of the Chair of the Board and President, a position she has held since 1988.

Gonzalez, on the other hand, joined ICTSI in 1997 as management trainee. He was promoted to Superintendent in 1999, and was initially assigned to the planning section of the operations center before moving to the operations department.

Gonzalez is a graduate of B.S. Business Administration from the Pepperdine University in Californa. He graduated from the IESE Business School, the graduate school of management of the University of Navarra, in Barcelona, Spain, where he was conferred the degree of Bilingual Masters in Business Administration.

Gutierrez, meanwhile, will be in direct contact with all MICT clients, ship owners, shippers, brokers and consignees. He reports to the general manager.

Entrepreneurship . . .

From page C8

formulate their own project guidelines and procedures, and otherwise take things in their own hands, they are constrained to make these projects and processes work."

This points to the wisdom of involving in decision making those who have the highest stake in the poverty alleviation process: the farmers themselves; the poor folks themselves.

A later study ("Innovative Approaches and Success Stories on ARC Development," DAR Foreign-Assisted Projects Office, 2001) which compiled and analyzed poverty-alleviation experiences in communities being served nationwide by 17 DAR foreign-assisted projects, distilled other lessons in managing economic programs for marginal farmers.

1. Capacity building—i.e. training and education for both beneficiaries and interventionists—cannot work in isolation, but should rather be complemented by support mechanisms like credit and agricultural extension and a sound agribusiness development framework.

2. Agribusiness development should be anchored on market matching and linkaging through a demand-driven production system. Marketing mechanisms used by the more successful communities included a network of DAR investment and marketing assistance officers, and market information dissemination channels.

3. Policy development and advocacy, since it involves different stakeholders with differing agenda, calls for a multi-dimensional and non-linear approach. It requires a complex process from policy development and advocacy to consensus-building to translation into programs and implementation.

There should be a process of integrating the stakeholders' varied concerns. In some cases, this has taken the form of roundtable discussions, consultation workshops, and policy researches.

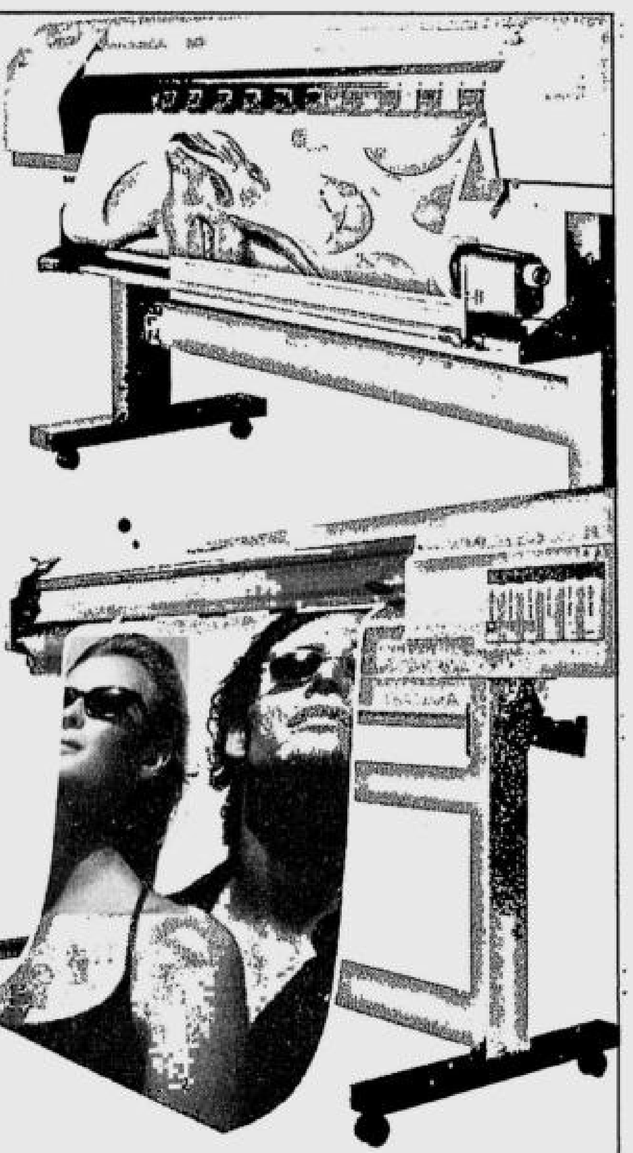
4. Programs should be accompanied by continued provision of basic social services, including education, health, and rural infrastructure.

Best practices in implementing programs for the poor are among the topics discussed in the upcoming UP ISSI course on "Designing and Implementing Poverty Alleviation Program" or Dipap.

Dipap is largely an action learning program, featuring workshop on program design, case exercises, business games and practicum along with lectures on poverty situation and analysis, government and private sector response to poverty, and policies, approaches and strategies to poverty alleviation.

Dipap is for development managers and officers of NGOs, GOs, PVOS, and cooperatives implementing livelihood and income-generating programs.

(UP ISSI will conduct another run of DIPAP starting March 15. Please call up Claire Esteban at 926-6316; 928-7076-79 or register online at www.up.edu.ph/~issi.)



Choose your weapon
MIMAKI
Roland
The most reliable name In signmaking
New X2 Inks

Print BIG for BIG bucks!

We give you a choice so you can print really big signs for really big profit.

Print 'em big and *fast* on the Mimaki JV4-180.

Print 'em big and *affordable* on a Roland SolJet.

Either way, print 'em to *last* using our exclusive X2 solvent-based ink. Like other solvent-based inks, X2 lasts longer, even outdoors and without lamination. But X2 won't clog your printer and prints on virtually any media. It's also *lowest cost.* We guarantee it!

We also guarantee superb, photorealistic results with both Mimaki and Roland. You'll get great color gamut and you'll collect satisfied, repeat customers with signs produced on these printers.

We can make such guarantees because we're Tgraf, the total graphic solutions provider. We have the printers, inks, media and sub-strates you need for success in the business.

We also have the technical expertise, spare parts and experience you can rely on.

No other wide format printer matches the speed and flexible media handling of Mimaki, up to 75.1" width.

No other wide format printer matches the affordability and consequent fast ROI of Roland Sol Jet. Prints media width up to 64".

No other supplier offers the sign making savvy we have worked hard to acquire. We can even provide the world's only *super-wide* format. Our Nur Macroprinters handle media up to **5 meters wide!**

We're waiting for your call. Today.

Exclusive Distributor
Tgraf
Total Graphic Solutions
Tel: 726–3991, local 202/3/4
Direct Line: 727–3970
Fax: 723–7951
url: tgraf.com.ph
e-mail: inquire@tgraf.com.ph

If this reminds you of how much your network solutions provider can grow, time to call GlobeQUEST.

The Red Eyed Tree Frog is distinct because of its lack of capacity to grow. Even at full adulthood, it can only reach a maximum size of 2 inches for both males and females.

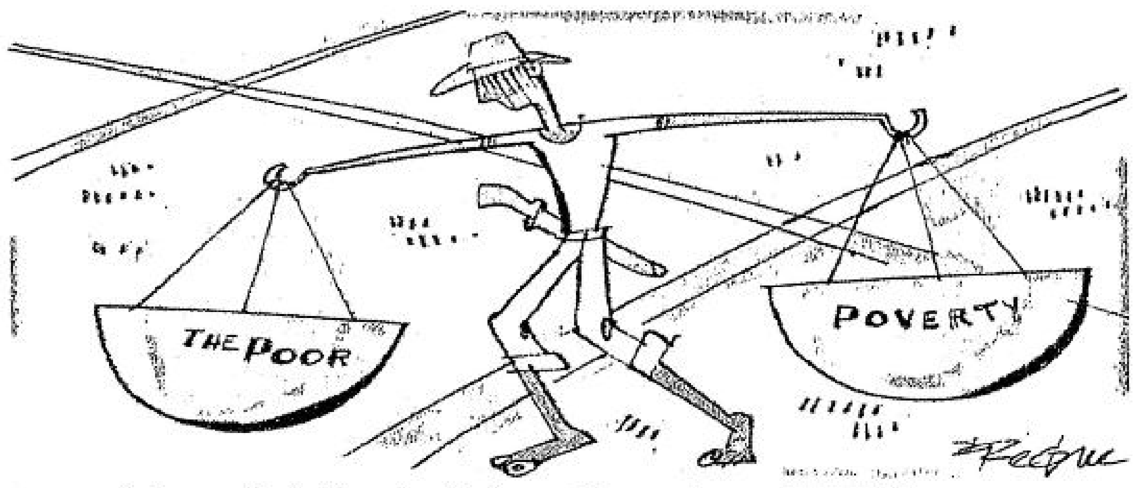
Globe QUEST
Solutions that mean business

You'd jump at any chance to make your business grow. But sometimes your network solutions provider can't make your company hop far enough. That's when you need GlobeQUEST. We provide your company with network solutions flexible enough to meet the largest requirements. We are scalable so we can easily adjust to any business need--big or small.

PRIVATE NETWORKS • BROADBAND INTERNET • DATACENTRES • CORPORATE VOICE • BROADBAND ACCESS • DIAL
GLOBE TELECOM, INC. 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer corner Madison Streets, 1552 Mandaluyong City, Philippines • Tel No. (632) 75QUEST (78378) • Fax No. (632) 739-3080
Cebu: Tel No. (032) 415-8950 • Fax No. (032) 415-8951 • Davao: Telefax: (082) 297-4829 • www.globequest.com.ph
GLOBE TELECOM

Entrepreneurship: Cure to poverty alleviation

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor



IN 1985, there were 26.2 million Filipinos living below the poverty level. By 2000, the number of Philippine poor went up to 31.3 million, despite decline of poverty incidence—the percentage of the population who are poor—from 49.3 percent in 1985 to 36.8 percent in 1997.

Unstemmed population growth—the Philippines has one of the highest growth rates in the region—is being blamed for the still burgeoning ranks of the poor and underprivileged.

Moreover, poverty alleviation programs —the centerpiece of almost every administration's agenda—have been beset by problems relating to design of programs, faulty targeting, and lack of financial sustainability.

A case in point is the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

When the CARP was enacted into law in 1988, the ticklish question that divided the population was: Does agrarian reform actually work for the poor?

Eloquent voices argue that poverty alleviation is scarcely served when land ownership and control are transferred to farmers and communities with marginal resources and meager capabilities, where productivity levels cannot be maintained, much less improved.

On the other hand, a recent assessment of CARP impact shows that the program has actually led to higher real per capita incomes and reduced poverty incidence between 1990 and 2000. Program beneficiaries, compared with non-beneficiaries, tend to have higher income, although poverty incidence among beneficiaries is still high. A 2000 study of the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) of a number of agrarian reform communities in Camarines Sur recorded cases of communities which, with support from well thought-out programs, have grown in their ability to eke out a good living from the land.

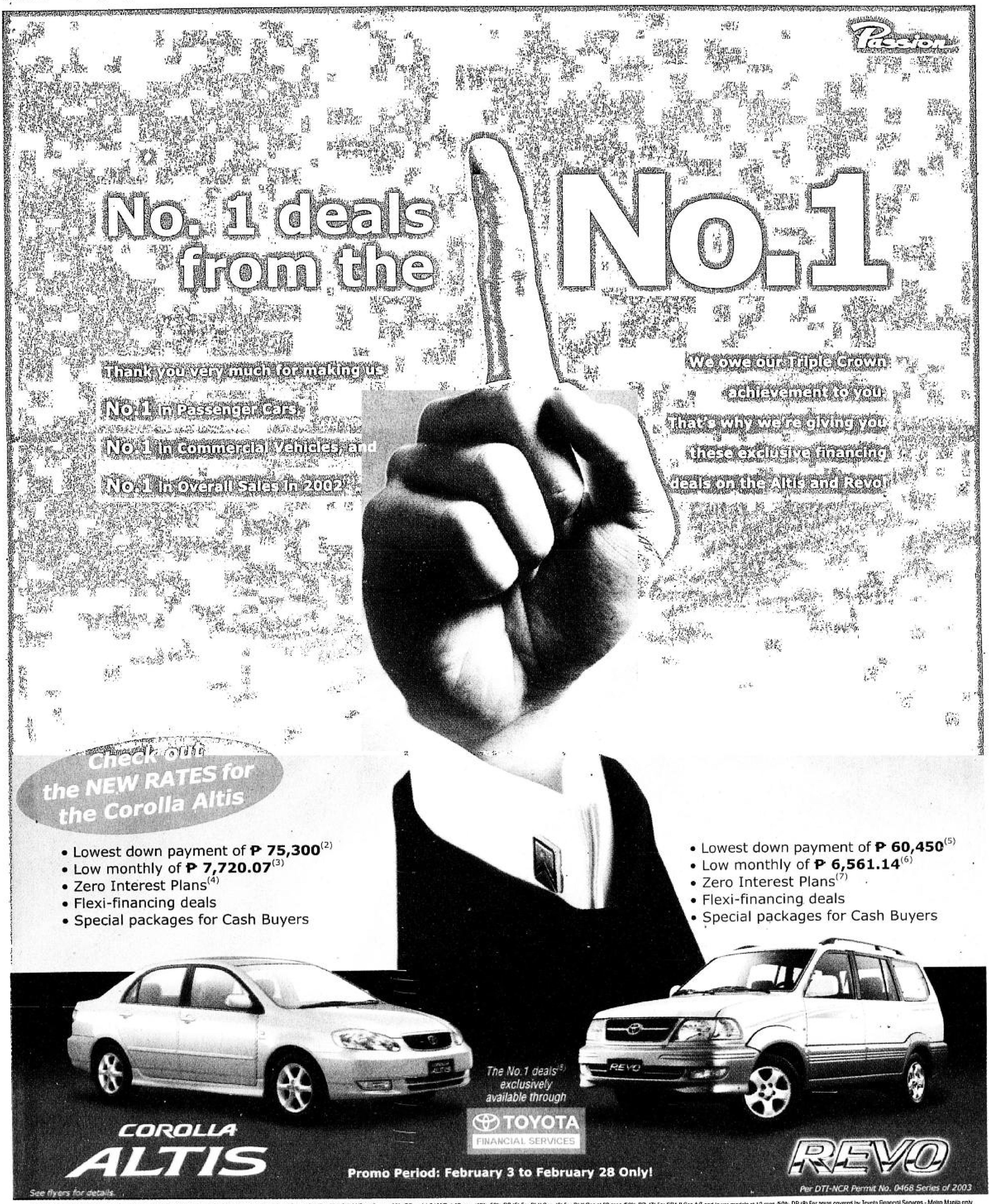
Notably, an important component of such programs is small enterprise and livelihood promotion and development.

The UP ISSI study, which was done for the Department of Agrarian Reform's EU-assisted Agrarian Reform Support Project (ARSP), revealed that where enterprise and livelihood programs are integrated with infrastructure, marketing, credit, training and tenure improvement services, erstwhile marginal farmers are empowered to improve their production and income in a sustainable way.

The study underscored the benefits from making use of organizational structures and support programs already in place, including local governments and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) already familiar and working closely with the target communities.

Another valuable lesson coming out of the experiences is that "as cooperatives are given the freedom to decide what productivity projects to implement, to

ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ C7


No. 1 deals from the No.1

Thank you very much for making us
No.1 in Passenger Cars,
No.1 in Commercial Vehicles, and
No.1 in Overall Sales in 2002$^{(1)}$

We owe our Triple Crown achievement to you.
That's why we're giving you these exclusive financing deals on the Altis and Revo!

Check out the NEW RATES for the Corolla Altis

- Lowest down payment of ₱ 75,300(2)
- Low monthly of ₱ 7,720.07(3)
- Zero Interest Plans(4)
- Flexi-financing deals
- Special packages for Cash Buyers

- Lowest down payment of ₱ 60,450(5)
- Low monthly of ₱ 6,561.14(6)
- Zero Interest Plans(7)
- Flexi-financing deals
- Special packages for Cash Buyers

COROLLA ALTIS

The No.1 deals(8) exclusively available through
TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

Promo Period: February 3 to February 28 Only!

REVO

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0468 Series of 2003

(1) Based on CAMPI results for the Year 2002 (2) For 1.6J M/T (3) For 1.6J M/T at 60 mos./50% DP (4) For 1.6G A/T, 1.6E A/T & M/T at 12 mos./50% DP and 1.6J M/T at 12 mos./40%-50% DP (5) For DLX Gas (6) For DLX Gas at 60 mos./50% DP (7) For SR1.8 Gas A/T and lower models at 12 mos./50% DP (8) For areas covered by Toyota Financial Services - Metro Manila only

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1091 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (0 34) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts. Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 (088)858-7770 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 920 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2904 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-6001 to 06 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 18 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64

www.toyota.com.ph
TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500

TOYOTA

40% Off
OUTBACK RESTAURANT
Not valid with other promotions
MONDAY - FRIDAY 2 PM - 6 PM
Hurry!!! Limited Offer
Outback Makati Glorietta 4

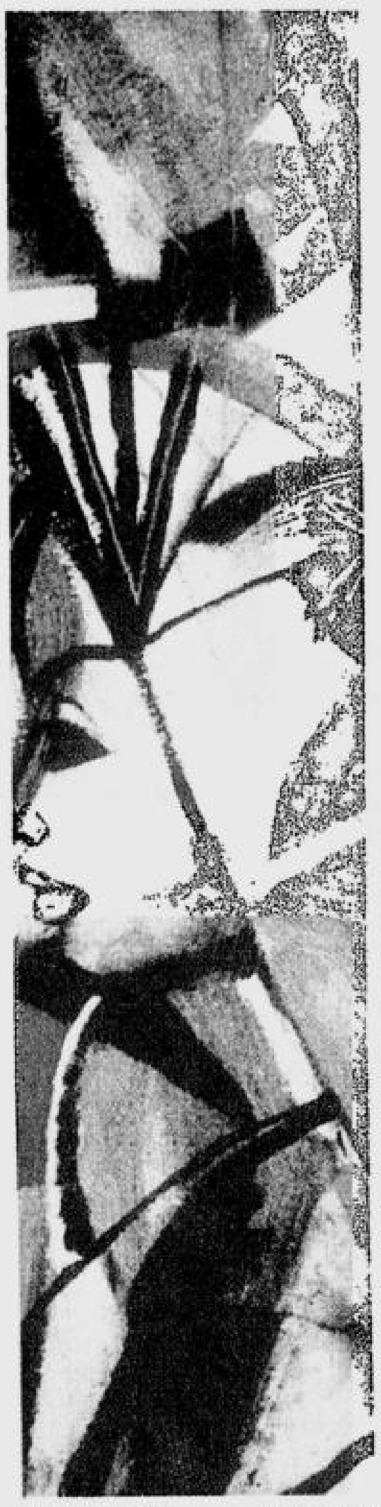
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
D1
For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Arts & Design
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ▫ Subsection Editor Lito Zulueta

Coffee on the GO! COMBOS!
DUNKIN DONUTS
P25
2 Regular-sized Coffee

A strikingly new Hermes Alegre

One of today's best-selling young painters goes the way of Mercury in a path-breaking show of abstracts

By Lito B. Zulueta



"ATHENA"

HERMES Alegre is one of today's best-selling visual artists, his oils of exotic beautiful woman commanding fabulous rates from avid collectors who have to wait in line, like the queue to the box office, to get their hands on pearl after priceless pearl. So why is he turning to abstracts, a terra incognita fraught with uncertainty?

The answer is that he is an artist who pushes the bounds of his artistry. He personifies Thom Gunn's existential Hell's Angel: "One is always nearer by not keeping still."

"Not keeping still" perhaps best portrays Alegre's aesthetics. Although famous for his portrait-like renditions of women, he imbues his works with an uncanny sense of movement. The trick may be in the mottled settings he surrounds his women figures with. The dapple of colors—greens, browns, reds—represents the foliage that frames the figures.

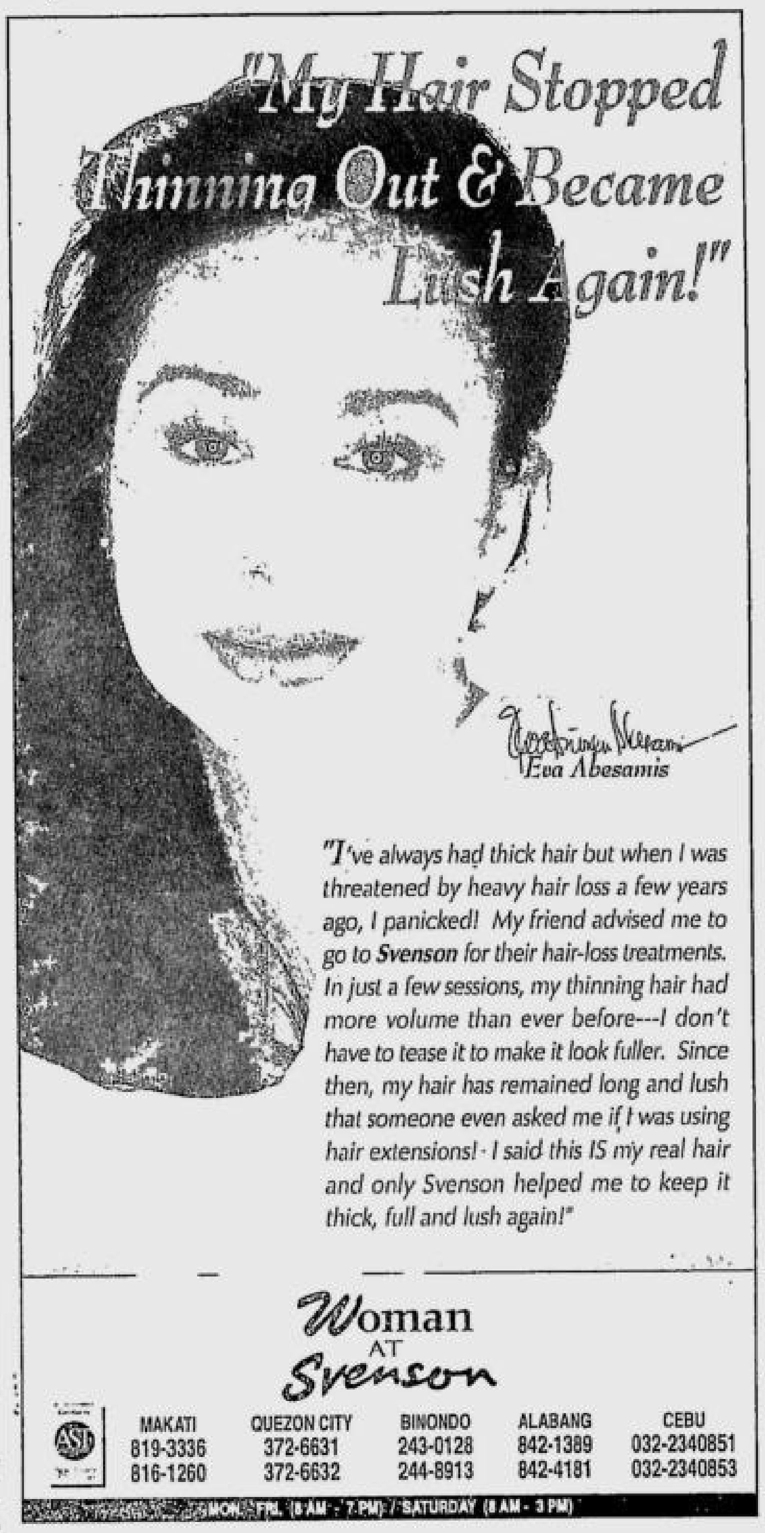
In some cases, the speckled background seems to overwhelm the figures as to crown the heads, like a laureate. In all of these cases—the peripheral framing the central, the background over-

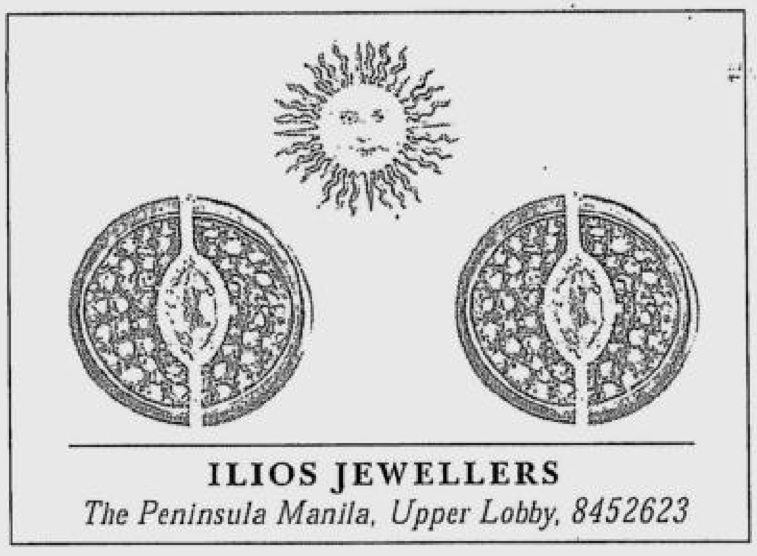
A STRIKINGLY / D7

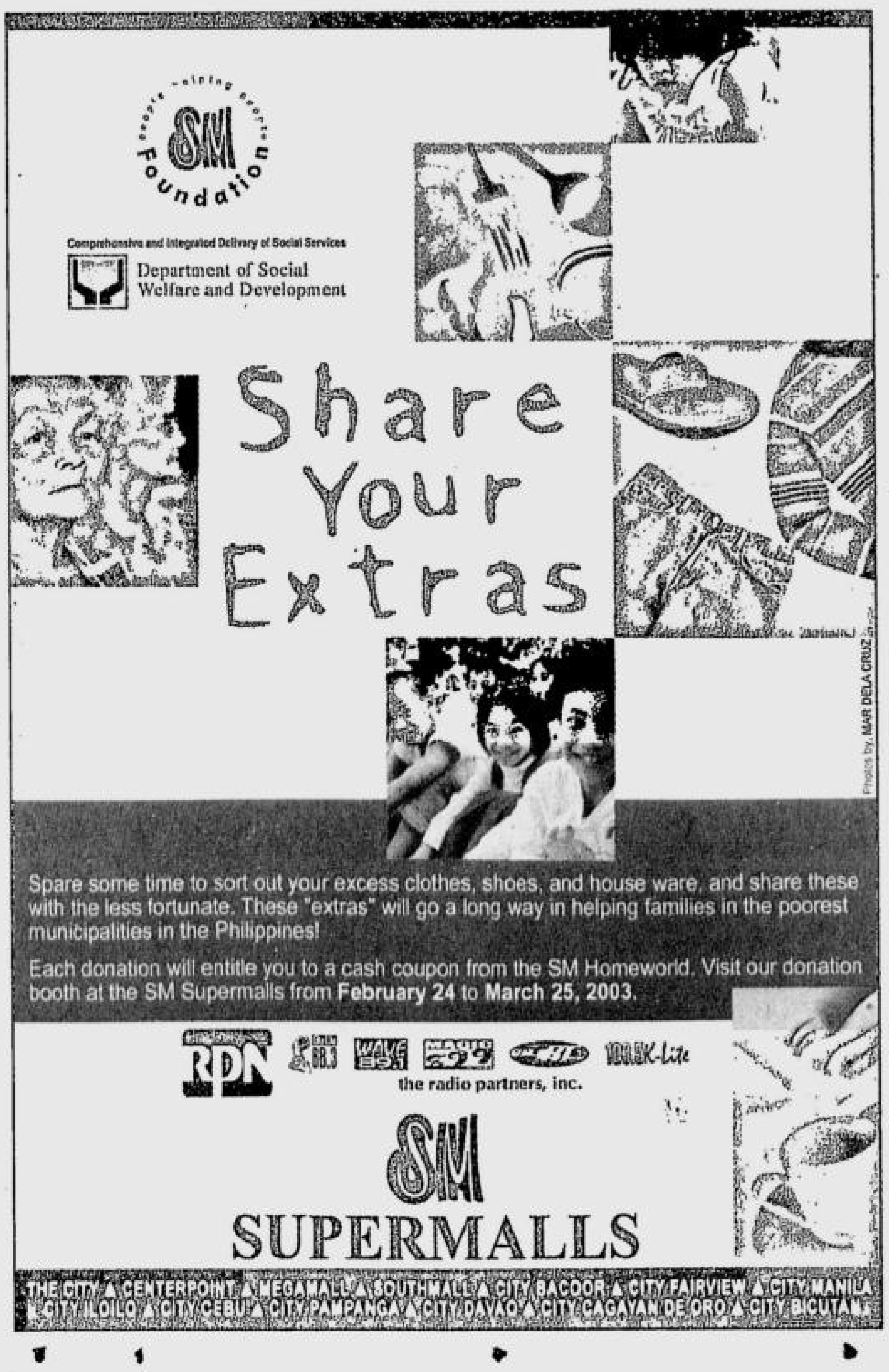
Evolutif Made in France
MAIN OFFICE:
C.B.T. Condominium
60 West Ave., Q.C.
4165218-19
• 3739797
FIRST PINNACLE
4/F (beside Gameworx) Festival Mall, Filinvest, Alabang • Tel.: 7710857

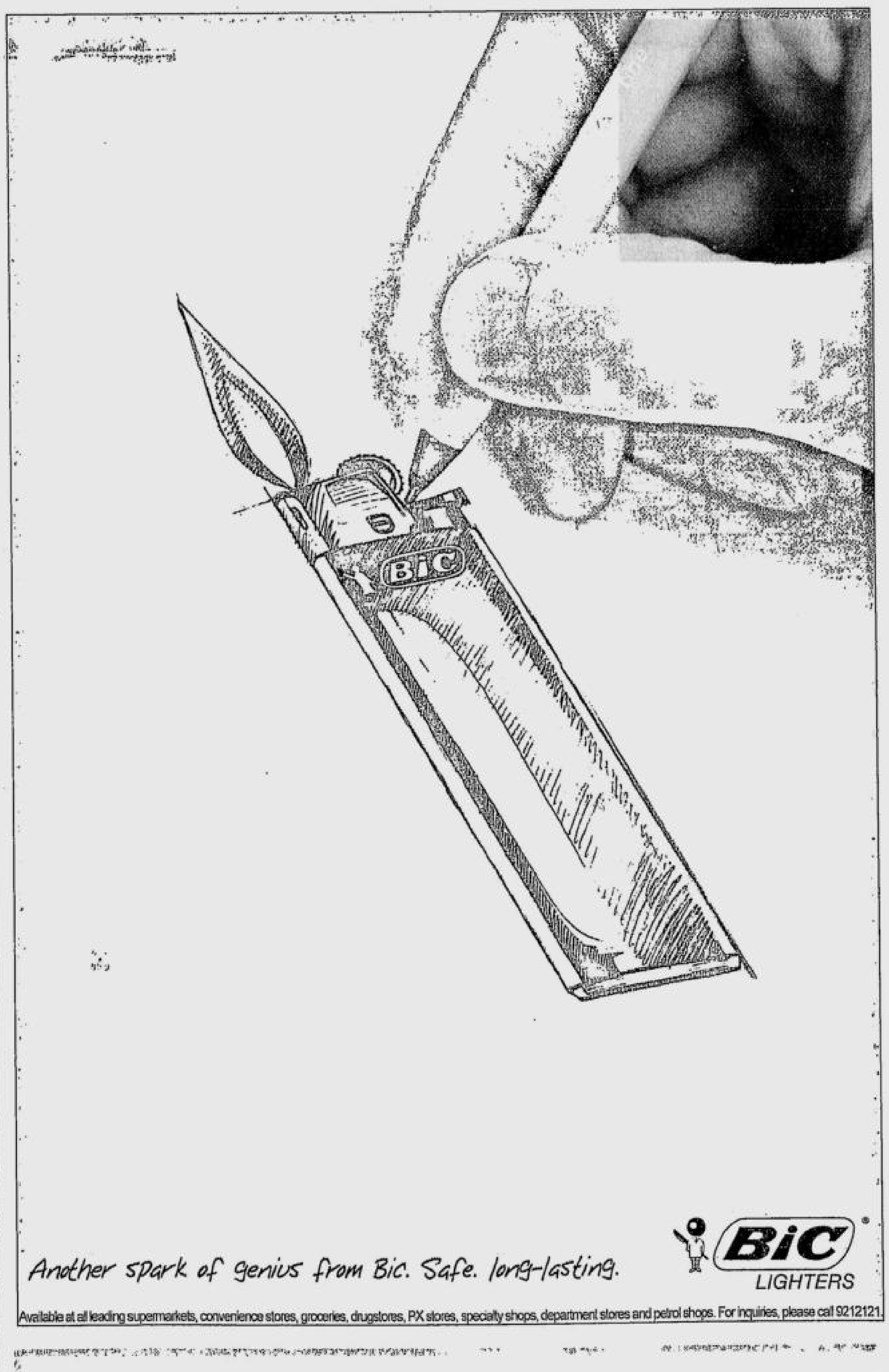
Take a Hot Bath in 3 seconds.
Call now to get Free Installation!
724-59-07
415-93-78
ARIVA WATER HEATERS

DVD Home Theater System
DVD Player: NEXTBASE
. USA Brand Only P4,980
. Play DVD, VCD, CD, CD-R, CD-RW
. Super Slim at 49mm
Speaker: ALTEC LANSING
. USA Brand
. 5 Speakers + 1 Sub-Woofer
. 90 Watts "True" Total System Power
. Video Adaptors Included


"My Hair Stopped Thinning Out & Became Lush Again!"
Eva Abesamis
"I've always had thick hair but when I was threatened by heavy hair loss a few years ago, I panicked! My friend advised me to go to **Svenson** for their hair-loss treatments. In just a few sessions, my thinning hair had more volume than ever before---I don't have to tease it to make it look fuller. Since then, my hair has remained long and lush that someone even asked me if I was using hair extensions! I said this IS my real hair and only Svenson helped me to keep it thick, full and lush again!"
Woman AT Svenson
MAKATI 819-3336 816-1260
QUEZON CITY 372-6631 372-6632
BINONDO 243-0128 244-8913
ALABANG 842-1389 842-4181
CEBU 032-2340851 032-2340853
MON.-FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)


ILIOS JEWELLERS
The Peninsula Manila, Upper Lobby, 8452623


SM Foundation
Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Share Your Extras
Photos by MAR DELA CRUZ
Spare some time to sort out your excess clothes, shoes, and house ware, and share these with the less fortunate. These "extras" will go a long way in helping families in the poorest municipalities in the Philippines!
Each donation will entitle you to a cash coupon from the SM Homeworld. Visit our donation booth at the SM Supermalls from **February 24** to **March 25, 2003.**
RDN the radio partners, inc.
SM SUPERMALLS
THE CITY ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ MEGAMALL ▲ SOUTHMALL ▲ CITY BACOOR ▲ CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY PAMPANGA ▲ CITY DAVAO ▲ CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO ▲ CITY BICUTAN


Another spark of genius from Bic. Safe. long-lasting.
BiC LIGHTERS
Available at all leading supermarkets, convenience stores, groceries, drugstores, PX stores, specialty shops, department stores and petrol shops. For inquiries, please call 9212121.

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2003

Film as living culture

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE 10TH anniversary celebration of the film festival Pelikula at Lipunan was graced on its opening night by no less than Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard and King of Comedy Dolphy.

The Mexican ambassador was there for the Manila premiere of Carlos Carrera's "El Crimen del Padre Amaro," this year's Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film nominee, which opened the festival. Dolphy attended the screening of the restored version of his 1969 hit, Luciano Carlos' "Facifica Falayfay."

The two pictures were stormed by moviegoers when they were screened at the SM Megamall, the festival's home venue. And so were the two Japanese films, Shunji Iwai's "All About Lily Chou Chou" (lauded as "one of the most haunting, viciously honest coming-of-age films in recent memory") and Hashiguchi Ryosuke's "Hush" (an audience favorite at the 2001 Cannes filmfest).

The first leg of this year's Pelikula at Lipunan, which ran Feb. 12-18, honored the King of Comedy by screening four of his early movies in the section Salute to Dolphy.

It also celebrated the 20th anniversary of three landmark indie works: Nick Deocampo's "Oliver," Raymond Red's "Ang Magpakailanman" and Roxlee's "The Great Smoke."

Then there were the numerous old and new short films, a regular program in this filmfest.

Screened for the Makati Public Elementary School Principals Association (Makapespa) Scholarship Program for underprivileged pupils were "three films that exemplify how local cinema works for the benefit of social development": Rory Quintos' "Anak," Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Muro-ami" and Eddie Romero's "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

The three were chosen by the school principals for their "capability to impress the right values on young viewers."

Showcased in the festival's On Focus section were works by two National Artists for Film: Ishmael Bernal's first feature "Pagdating sa Dulo" and Lamberto Avellana's last film "Waywaya."

Most anticipated

The most anticipated, therefore the most well attended, were the premieres of foreign films. This section aims to showcase "how cinema becomes a powerful medium in examining and filtering one's culture."

Screened along with the Mexican and Japanese films were Julie Taymor's "Titus," Elias Merhige's "Shadow of the Vampire," Deepa Mehta's "Bollywood Hollywood," Penek Ratanaruang's "A Transistor Love Story," Daniel Algrant's "People I Know," Nan Achnas' "Whispering Sands."

Audience turnout was almost full-house for Stephen Daldry's "The Hours" (a strong Oscar contender this year), and about three-fourths for the closing film "Punch-Drunk Love" (winner of Best Director for Paul Thomas Anderson at the 2002 Cannes filmfest).

Though it has a relatively strong audience attendance, the festival is still far from being self-sustaining, however.

"EL Crimen del Padre Amaro": Stormed by moviegoers

"How can that be!" exclaims the audacious festival director Nick Deocampo. "Movie house *pa lang*, half-a-million pesos *na, e*. Although highly discounted *na 'yan*."

(Himself an accomplished filmmaker, Deocampo is credited as the man who started the programming of short films in commercial theaters, and tapping the considerable gay audience by holding a Pink Festival a few years ago.)

Funding for the holding of Pelikula at Lipunan comes mostly from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. It has a few corporate sponsors such as Philippine Airlines, the official festival carrier, and ShoeMart, which gives 50-percent discount on the use of its theaters.

Since its first screenings in the open air in Luneta in 1993, the filmfest has become the centerpiece of the NCCA's Cinema Values Reorientation Program, which aims to "reintroduce Filipino film classics to general audiences and to help upgrade the appreciation of the country's film culture."

The NCCA, in cooperation with the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation Inc. (Mowelfund), holds the filmfest every February (declared as National Arts Month by the NCCA). Since 2000, the festival has been reaching out to the regions, with screenings in Cebu, Iloilo, Pampanga, Baguio.

Regional screenings

Present in the filmfest's second leg in Iloilo, Feb. 21-23, was Mexican cultural attaché Jorge Salcido. He was there for the screenings of the opening film, Alfonso Cuarón's "Y Tu Mamá También" (this year's Oscar nominee for Best Original Screenplay), and the closing film, Alejandro Gonzáles Iñarritu's "Amores Perros" (2001 Oscar nominee for Best Foreign-Language Film).

Boots Anson Roa, NCCA Committee on Cinema chair and festival supervisor, graced the Iloilo screenings.

Also in attendance was Peque Gallaga. This was the first time the Ilonggo filmmaker was involved in the festival.

DOLPHY at his most glamorous in "Facifica Falayfay"

PEQUE Gallaga: The reason people really go to the movies

He admits he was at first skeptical about Pelikula at Lipunan, but now he finds it quite exciting, especially when he saw the venue teeming with moviegoers as early as 11 a.m.

"And these are not just students herded by their teachers to watch the movies," Gallaga blurts out. "All of a sudden, people are really excited, at least here in Region 6."

Also screened in Iloilo were Julian Schnabel's "Before Night Falls," Bernal's "Working Girls," Avellana's "Waywaya," and numerous shorts and animations, including those by young Ilonggo filmmakers.

Along with the screening of Deocampo's "Oliver" was launched his book "Cine: Spanish Influences on Early Cinema in the Philippines."

"Call it utopian, whatever it is," says Gallaga, "but considering it started with a *telon* in Luneta... It is now something between art-house films and living culture—the reason people really go to the movies."

Gallaga—whose ouevre, particularly "Oro, Plata, Mata," "Scorpio Nights," "Virgin Forest," "Unfaithful Wife" and "Isang Araw Walang Diyos," must be ranked among the finest in Philippine cinema—will be given a tribute together with Ilongga actress Susan Roces in next year's Pelikula at Lipunan, which will hold screenings in Bacolod for the first time.

On Feb. 28-March 1, the festival runs on its final leg in Baguio. To be screened are films about or made in Baguio and the Cordillera: Koji Imaizumi's "Small Home," Joyce Bernal's "Buhay Kamao," Butch Perez's "Mumbaki" and Gerry de Leon's "Banaue."

From a humble *telon* in the open air, this has evolved into a tradition, on its way to becoming an institution. And what do you know, it took only 10 years. This is what is meant by a "living culture."

Despite dismissal, Intramuros chief refuses to leave

DISMISSED Intramuros Administration (IA) administrator Dominador C. Ferrer Jr. refused to accept his dismissal from Malacañang, saying that it was "not final and executory," IA employees said.

In a letter dated Feb. 19 to the IA Board of Administrators, Ferrer said that he is filing a "motion for reconsideration" to the Office of the President.

He has also refused to clear his office of its contents and return the service van reserved for the office of the IA administrator.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has designated Undersecretary Armand C. Arreza as officer-in-charge of IA.

Ferrer was dismissed Feb. 4 for violating the anti-graft law.

Administrative Order No. 58 ordering Ferrer's dismissal was signed Jan. 31 by Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Q. Flores upon authority of the President.

The dismissal came upon the recommendation of the Presidential Commission on Anti-Graft to the President.

Ferrer was found guilty of graft charges involving a P3,000 loan he made from a parking lot operator in Intramuros.

The charges stemmed from an anonymous letter-complaint sent to the then Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption on April 24, 1999.

The complaint stated that on April 9, 1999, Ferrer borrowed P3,000 from a certain Eddie Eugenio, who manages the operation of an IA-owned parking.

The money was used to pay some media people who attended a press conference for an April Boy Regino concert that was to be staged at the Puerta Isabel II area in Intramuros on April 11.

The concert was sponsored by IA as part of its 20th anniversary.

Section 70 of Republic Act 6713 (Anti-Graft Law) prohibits "soliciting, accepting, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from a person in the course of their official duties or in any connection with any operation being regulated by or any transaction which may be affected by the function of their office."

Ferrer's dismissal came before the opening of the Department of Tourism's Visit Philippines 2003 in which Intramuros was the center of festivities.

Ferrer is also facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan in connection with the putting up of restaurants and commercial establishments on the walls of Intramuros.

The charges were filed by the Office of the Ombudsman through a complaint filed by the Heritage Conservation Society.

The Arts Month across the nation this week

FEB. 24, MONDAY

INDIAN Manipuri Classical Dance Troupe (Feb. 24-25), Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. The group performs Manipuri, a classical dance using delicate arm movement and gentle footwork. Call Yvette Macayan at 527-2192 local 605.

"DANGAL ng Lahi" exhibit, 9 a.m., SFC Lobby, University of the East-Recto. The touring exhibit on the lives and works of National Artists opens with a concert by the UE band to pay tribute to National Artist for Music Lucio San Pedro, a forum with National Artists, and a performance by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the UE Theater at 3 p.m. Call Gener Caringal at 735-5471.

MALIBAY Cenakulo Exhibit, Cultural Center of the Philippines, ongoing. An exhibition on the 100-year-old *senakulo* tradition of Malibay, Pasay City. Call Edgar Granada at (0916) 422-1788.

"LIDONG sa Kabihug: Pagkilala at Pagpapakilala sa Paniniwala ng mga Katutubo sa Camarines Norte," Feb. 23-28, Camarines Norte. A multimedia traveling exhibit on Kabihug tribe's rituals for the bereaved. The exhibit includes a *butukan* house of the Kabihugs, audio tapes and video footages of the dance and *sakdo* (food offering) for the dead. Call Sarah Aviado at (054) 731-1525.

"SUBA Pairaya, Suba Palluod (Pagtuitol sa Magkalain-lain nga mga Dalan)," Feb. 23-28, Calbayog City. Month-long celebration featuring *bandilyo*, performances of the Hadang, live diorama, competitions, exhibits/lectures, art installation, poetry reading/launching of D. Pangero's "My August Moon," Chito Roño retrospective, serenade of old Samar songs. Call Handumanan Museo de Calbayog at (055) 209-1725.

"BUKAMBIBIG sa UP," Feb. 23-28, University of the Philippines-Diliman. Activities include essay and poetry writing contests, poetry reading, exhibit and cultural presentation. Call Vladimir Gonzales at 922-1830.

"DENSITIES: Making Sense of Dense Cities," until March 18, CCP Front Lawn. An exhibit promoting art-making as a broader cultural engagement. It features five subthemes: power/ mobility, shelter, environment, body and community. Visual artist Imelda Cajipe-Endaya is curator with Sid Hildawa as venue director for the exhibit organized by the Pananaw ng Sining Bayan, Pinaglabanan Galleries and Surrounded by Water Gallery. Call Pananaw ng Sining Bayan at 550-1024.

"BALIK-TANAW: A Showcase of Songs and Dances of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur," Feb. 24-28, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. An exhibit on the culture of the people of Sta. Cruz, including songs, dances, traditional courtship and marriage of Christians, Lumads and Muslims. Call Camila Infiesto at (082) 441-1463.

"DAGWAY Kapisnon: A Portrait of the Kapisnon, Roxas City." Inauguration of a street in honor of the 108th birthday of National Artist Jovita Fuentes. Celebration includes competitions on Escotis dancing, on-the-spot painting, *composo* and others. Call Ofelia Rendon at (036) 621-2070.

"DESIGNING Bohol: New Designs for the Traditional Art of Bohol," ongoing at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Features the works of Michael Dizon, Reimon Gutierrez, Rajo Laurel, Marica Lim, Milo Naval, Tes Pasola, Barge Ramos and the Bohol Producers. Call Nelda Sansaet at 521-1517.

FEB. 25, TUESDAY

"LIKHA (Alay kina Carlos Francisco at Vicente Manansala)," 9 a.m.-5 p.m., University of the East, Caloocan. On-the-spot painting competition (high school) to be handled by College of Fine Arts dean Gerardo Tan's committee. Call Benjo Basas at 364-2601.

FEB. 26, WEDNESDAY

"EKSPERIM[E]NTO Film and Video Festival," until March 1, Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Building, Intramuros, Manila. Local and international alternative short and full-length films will be screened including "Balay-Daku" by JP Carpio, 9 a.m.-12 nn; "Bacolod Film/ Videomakers in Focus," 1:30-3:30 p.m.; "The Radicals" (Israel) and "Nekropolice" (UK), 3:30-5 p.m.; "Lips to Lips" (Malaysia), 5-6:50 p.m.; "Too Much Sleep" by David Maquiling, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free admission. Call 564-2600.

BARAKA 2003 Pinaka sa Paete ng Ukit, Taka atbp., Paete, Laguna. The culmination of a month-long celebration of National Arts Month in Paete, Laguna, featuring a trade fair, weekly performances of the traditions of the town. Call the Municipal Government of Paete at (049) 557-0415.

Pamanang Bayan Symposium, Feb. 26-27, Little Theater, College of Arts and Sciences, UP Manila. Two-day symposium on Philippine visual arts with the theme, "Frames, Models and Paradigms." Call Dr. Pacita Gavino at 523-1628.

FIRST National Conference on Philippine Folklore, Feb. 26-28, Pampanga. Call Ann Mobanta at (045) 599-2794.

PANAGBENGA: Baguio Poetry Reading for Arts Month 2003, Baguio City. Features Pia Arboleda, Jaime Agpalo, Franklin Cimatu, Francis Macansantos and Prescy Macansantos. Call Francis Macansantos at (074) 444-7004/442-3888.

"SALAMISIM (Alay kay Rolando Tinio)," 3 p.m., Conference Hall, University of the East, Recto. A presentation of the UE Drama Group. Includes showing of works of National Artists, 9 a.m. Call 364-2601.

INDIAN Manipuri Classical Dance Troupe, 7:30 p.m, Baluarte Plaza Luneta de Sta. Isabel, Intramuros. Call Yvette Macayan at 527-2192 local 605.

"KALUTANG, Tsato, Pitik atbp," Lajar-Chipeco-Lina Auditorium. The performance, presented by Artist Inc. of Laguna, features Aeta, Dumagat and Mangyan children. Call Bendel Yamo at (0919) 388-6038.

FEB. 27, THURSDAY

"GUNITA (Alay kay Levi Celerio)," 3 p.m., Conference Hall, University of the East-Recto. Concert of the UE Chorale, put together by Ann Abeleda, highlights the works of the National Artist for Music and Literature. Call 364-2601.

INDIAN Manipuri Classical Dance Troupe 7:30 p.m. Insular Life, Makati City. Call Yvette Macayan at 527-2192 local 605.

"EKSPERIM[E]NTO Film and Video Festival," Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Building, Intramuros, Manila. Screenings of local and international alternative short and full-length films, featuring "Friction" (Czech Republic), Robert Ellman; and "The Awakening of Mattsi and Katochek" (USA), Kate Sobol and Matthias Schubert, 1-2 p.m.; "Third World Newsreel: Tracing a Diaspora", 2-3:30 p.m.; "Dark & Haunted Visions", 3:30-5:20 p.m.; Briccio Santos short films, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; International Jury Films by Usama Alshaibi and Jon Moritsugu. Tickets available. Call 564-2600.

FEB. 28, FRIDAY

"SUNGDU-AN 3: Making the Local NCR3," 2-5:30 p.m., 4/F Multipurpose Hall, CCP. The third national art festival exhibition, will include a lecture on the "National Capital Region in Nation-Concept Renewal for a Nation-in-Crisis Redeemed." Call Karen Flores at 875-2528.

"ARKITEKTURANG Filipino," CD-ROM launching, 2 p.m., UP College of Mandaluyong. The CD-ROM on Philippine architecture is based on the traveling exhibit, "Arkitekturang Filipino."

"DANGAL ng Lahi" performance, 3 p.m., UE Theater, University of the East. Featuring the UE Dance Troupe, UE Chorale, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Isay Alvarez, Noni Buencamino. Call 364-2601.

"EKSPERIM[E]NTO Film and Video Festival," until March 1, Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Building, Intramuros, Manila. Call 564-2600.

KAPAMPANGAN Poetry Reading, Feb. 28-Mar. 1, UP Pampanga. Two-day seminar-workshop on Kapampangan language and literature. Call Juliet Mallari at (045) 599-2794.

CULMINATION of the Laguna celebration of National Arts Month, Cabuyao Plaza, Laguna. Street dancing and musical/ cultural performances. Call Ma. Cristina Coronado at (049) 808-5958.

NENA del Rosario-Villanueva and Oscar Yatco concert, 7:30 p.m., Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue corner H. V. dela Costa, Makati City. Presented by the Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank. Tickets at P300. Call 818-1403 or 813-3849.

Map of Pasig River's great heritage

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

> Lito Atienza would do well to follow the map that traces the great heritage of the Arroceros Park and Mehan Garden. But, can he read maps?

THE PASIG River Heritage Collection came out a few months ago. It contains "Muling Aawit ang Pasig," a CD of environmental songs, and the Pasig River Heritage Map.

The collection is produced by the Clean and Green Foundation and its partners—the Heritage Conservation Society, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, the Department of Tourism, among others. The CD sings extremely well by itself but it is the map that deserves a good look.

The map is one of the best guides for Manila published in recent years. It takes the Pasig as the focus of the city, and with good reason. Many of the world's great cities rose along riverbanks, and Manila is no exception.

The Pasig is at the center of our heritage. Even in pre-Hispanic times before Raha Sulayman built his palisaded fort at the mouth of the Pasig, local life flourished along the river.

When the Spanish took over Manila, they built Fort Santiago at the mouth of the Pasig. Later, still along the river but on the opposite edge of Intramuros from the Fort, they constructed the Aduana.

The Americans built the Post Office in the early part of the last century as one of the focal hubs for the broad avenues that the eminent planner Daniel Burnham designed for Manila.

Beleaguered Arroceros Forest Park and the contested Mehan Garden provide the breathing space in the hub in front of the Post Office, originally Plaza Lawton and now Liwasang Bonifacio. The Forest Park, situated on the bank of the Pasig, has a long historic connection with the river.

It may help to remember that the area encompassed by the Arroceros Forest Park and the Mehan Garden was the former Parian, the Chinese quarters during the Spanish era.

The history of Arroceros goes back farther. It was once Manila's principal rice market, where boats docked to unload rice that was grown upriver and in neighboring provinces, making it one of the commercial hubs along the Pasig.

It then stands to logic that the Arroceros-Mehan area is designated by the National Museum as one of Manila's richest archaeological sites, another reason why they should remain as open spaces.

Like the current threat to the existence of both the Arroceros Forest Park and the Mehan Garden, the Pasig River is struggling to survive. The Clean and Green Foundation is the center for a complex of interrelated programs to revive the Pasig.

The great value of the Pasig River Heritage Map is that it revives our forgotten interest in the rich heritage existing on both banks of the river. It reminds us of how significant the Pasig is in a Manileño's life and heritage.

Use the map to walk around Intramuros. It shows where the existing historic sites are, such as San Agustin Church (a Unesco World Heritage Site) and the restored walls. It provides pictures and indicates locations of sites that have long been lost: the Recoletos, San Ignacio, Lourdes, San Francisco and Santo Domingo Churches; and the Santa Catalina, Santo Tomas, Santa Potenciana, Ateneo de Manila schools that have since relocated elsewhere.

The map also shows the former locations of the Ayuntamiento, Palacio del Gobernador, and the Aduana, at one time the most imposing government buildings on the islands.

North bank

The map shows how to reach heritage sites on the north bank of the Pasig. Walk along the Escolta, the former "Queen of Streets," and experience the architecture of the 1930s: the Natividad, Regina, and Perez-Samanillo buildings. Continue to the Muelle de la Industria and see the El Hogar building. Follow the map into Binondo to experience the pockets of heritage there.

Navigate Quiapo with the Pasig River Heritage Map. It gets you to Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda, which is now framed by an improbable concrete colonnade that adds more visual clutter to an already visually chaotic area. Follow the visual chaos into the colorful side streets of Quiapo filled with shops selling all kinds of merchandise.

The map walks you on to Quezon Boulevard and Recto, where the buildings of Far Eastern University are a feast within an area of visual chaos. One of Manila's most outstanding ensembles of Art Deco architecture, each of the university buildings has been restored to its original circa 1940s look.

The FEU campus is a true oasis, both architectural and environmental. It is one of the few green spaces in the crowded University Belt of Manila.

Returning focus on the river, the map brings attention to the 13 bridges that cross the Pasig. The bridges exemplify the different and ever-changing eras that dominated Philippine society: the trailblazing Spanish era, the modern engineering feats of the American period, the wanton destruction of World War II, and the uncontrolled expansion of the postwar and contemporary times.

Through Clean and Green Foundation's "Project Bridges," eight of the bridges were architecturally rehabilitated in 1998 to honor the Pasig by elevating the act of crossing the river a visual event. The bridges are seen not just as utilitarian structures but as landmarks, that they could be maintained and treasured as vital parts of Filipino heritage.

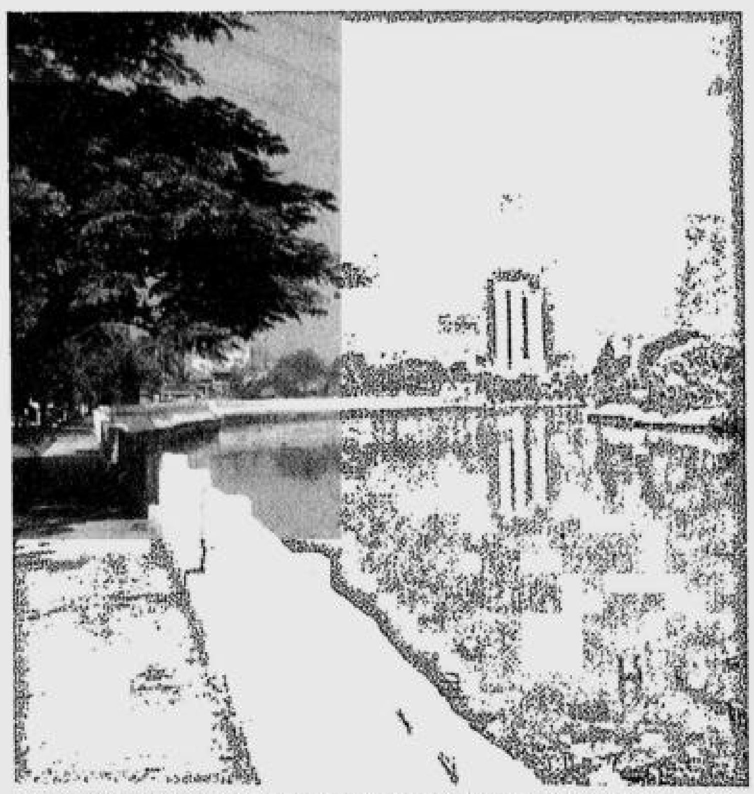
Sadly, they have since been neither maintained nor treasured. The refurbished bridges, now extremely deteriorated, were turned over to local government units for maintenance.

Regardless of the reality that there really exists no culture of maintenance for the bridges (and for our monuments as well), and that the great strides achieved by the Clean and Green Foundation appear to be a little drop in our perennially gaping bucket, the Pasig River Heritage Map is one of the few publications that show us how things are and how they could be. For that, it is worth having.

The map and CD are available individually or preferably as a set from the Clean and Green Foundation office at the Manila Orchidarium. All profits benefit the projects of the Foundation. Call 527-6376/78, e-mail cgfi@epic.net or ppp@epic.net

The long list of other partners in the project who must be congratulated for their involvement are the Intramuros Administration, Metro Manila Development Authority, National Parks Development Committee, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., BPI, Jollibee, Cathay Pacific, Unilever, Nick Joaquin, Nemiranda, Blanche Gallardo, Sonia Krug, Celeste Gallardo, George Tapan, Sylvia Mayuga, Jojo Limpo and Fernando Zialcita.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph



THE WATERWAY struggles to survive amid the chaos on both banks.

Fasten your seatbelts
- we're about to
bring down
the interest
on your credit card bill to
1.29%
per month.*
Philippine Airlines
HSBC
Mabuhay MILES
VISA
Apply at www.hsbc.com.ph

Transfer your non-HSBC credit card balance to Mabuhay Miles Visa to save on interest charges and earn FREE flights.

Let the world's local bank give you better savings and the best financial flexibility in town.

- **Save on interest charges** with our lowest add-on rate – only 1.29% per month when paid in 12 equal payments. This means you're charged an effective revolving interest rate of only 2.28% per month -- much smaller than the conventional interest rate of 3.25%.
- **No fixed monthly payments!** Pay as low as 5% of your outstanding balance transfer amount.
- **No processing fees.**
- **No pre-termination charges!**
- **Earn FREE flights.** Transfer balances and earn Bonus Points that you can use to redeem FREE international or domestic flights on Philippine Airlines.

Hurry! HSBC's Balance Transfer offer runs until **30 April 2003** only.

APPLY NOW AND START SAVING! CALL 8641111

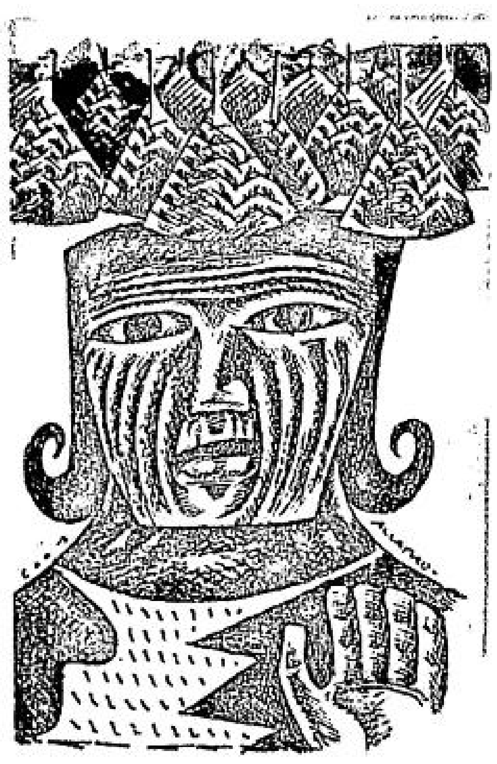
* *Add-on monthly interest rate is computed assuming 12 equal monthly payments using a 2.28% effective monthly interest rate. Other HSBC credit cards can also avail of the balance transfer promo.*

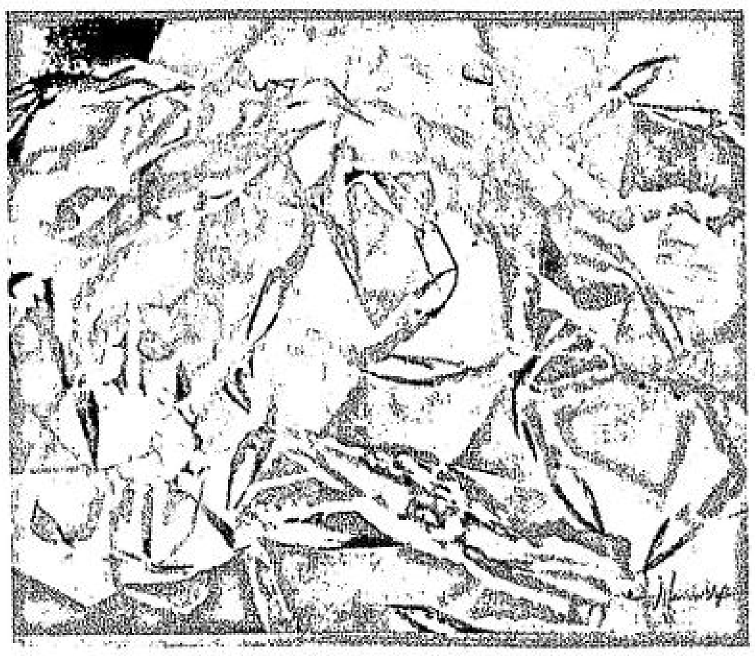
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2139. Series of 2002.

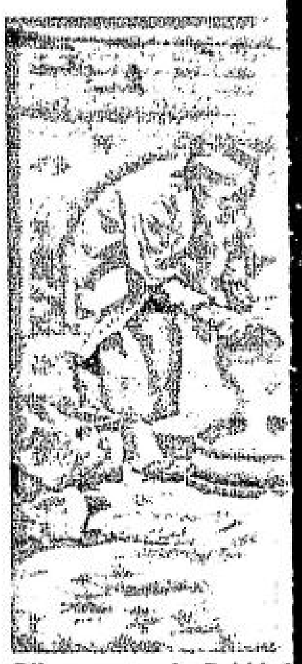
HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

‘Rouge’ at Celebrity, Limpe at 139, Villlan


"LOLA Sol" by Nunelucio Alvarado


"ALIMASAG" by Wilfredo Villanueva


OIL on canvas by Robbie

VISUAL ARTS

THE CHOICE Expression Gallery presents "Rouge," an art exhibit from Feb. 24 to March 9 at the central lobby of the Celebrity Sports Club in Quezon City.

Tam Austria, Edsel Moscoso, Jose Blanco, Angel Cacnio, Remy Boquiren, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Rafael Cusi, Caloy Gabuco, Robbie Nubla, Nemi Miranda and Solomon Saprid are among the top artists to join the Gallery in celebrating love with their artworks at "Rouge."

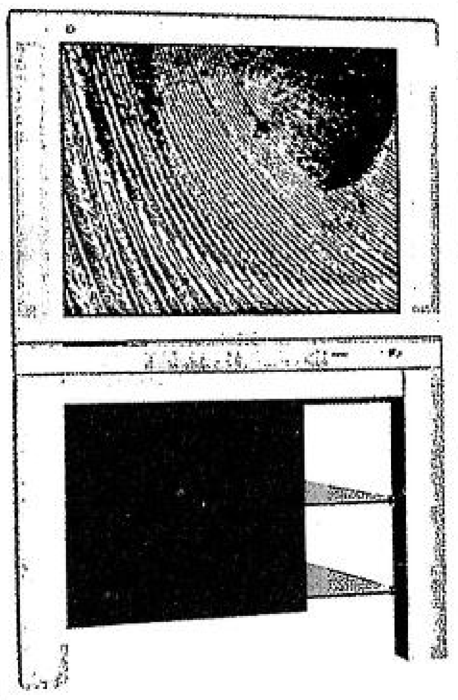
To grace the exhibit are Eduardo and Marietta Barretto, Dr. Raul Edralin, Buena Fe Florentino and Dr. Michael Magabo.

Congressman Aurelio Umali of the third district of Nueva Ecija will give a short talk at the exhibit opening as founder of the Batang Nueva Ecija Foundation, Inc. Part of the exhibit's proceeds will be for the benefit of the medical mission of the foundation. For more details, contact Jerome Jimenez at 531-9285/ 0917-8943293 or Bong Versoza at 679-2362/ 0917-8941405.

BUSINESSMAN-PAINTER Julius Limpe is holding his solo show, "Limpe's Flowers 2003," at Gallery 139 (4/L Megamall) on Feb. 27 to March 11. The builder of the Destileria Limtuaco empire, Limpe is famous for his fish paintings. But for the show he returns to a past subject—flora, a favorite still life. Call 633-7363.

WILFREDO Villanueva mounts a comeback show at the fine dining restaurant-gallery Caffe Maestro (1780 Nicanor Garcia St. [for-

Philips Pixel Plus: Leading the *Resolution Revolution*



No matter how stylishly designed, how big the screen, or how user-friendly a television set is, what matters at the end of the day is how it performs. For the discerning couch potato, the most important criterion of a TV's performance is how clear the resolution is: "Are the pictures bright? Are the images clear?" Does it look natural?". Unfortunately, most TVs don't even live up to expectations.

Fortunately, one company has resolved to give its consumers the best viewing experience, and how! Stepping up to the challenge of providing the TV that gives the best resolution ever is Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), Europe's No.1 consumer electronics company. With its most recent innovation, Philips promises a truly satisfying TV experience, whatever you're watching.

The Philips Pixel Plus is a revolutionary technology that incorporates impressive image processing improvements to bring incredible sharpness, natural detail and depth to the pictures onscreen. This innovation improves the image quality of everything onscreen: from video games, DVD movies, to even ordinary TV signals.

How does Pixel Plus achieve this? By increasing the TV's standard horizontal and vertical resolution, Pixel Plus is able to deliver a world-record breaking 2 million pixels per picture frame, more than 5 times that of conventional television. With that many pixels, this amazing technology achieves dramatic picture quality.

So why does Philips call Pixel Plus revolutionary? Because it is the only TV that provides a resolution that could only be previously achieved in High Definition TV. The achievements of Pixel Plus herald nothing short of a *Resolution Revolution*, unrivalled and unequalled.

And also, for the first time in TV technology, such ultra high resolution comes without compromising field flicker. The sets show stable and flicker-free pictures that are less straining on the eyes, to allow for more relaxing TV viewing. Complemented by the revolutionary

PHILIPS/D5

More pixels, more details, and more rave reviews.

"The amount of detail exceeds anything we've previously seen on standard CRT sets..."
T3
April 2002

"Picture resolution is sky high, and the definition of shapes is impressively crisp."
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
May 2002

"The picture is close to perfect with an almost film-like quality and ability to uncover extra detail and colours."
HomeEntertainment
April 2002

"Philips has successfully pulled off a great triumph. Finally, here is a picture enhancement system that can use all the advantages of DVD and digital TV without having to make any compromises."
HiFi Test TV-VIDEO
March 2002

"The foreground and background alike benefit from this extra resolution, creating a greater sense of perspective and a much more involving viewing experience."
HOME CINEMA
May 2002

"The best TV pictures the world has ever seen? You bet."
WHAT VIDEO & TV
May 2002

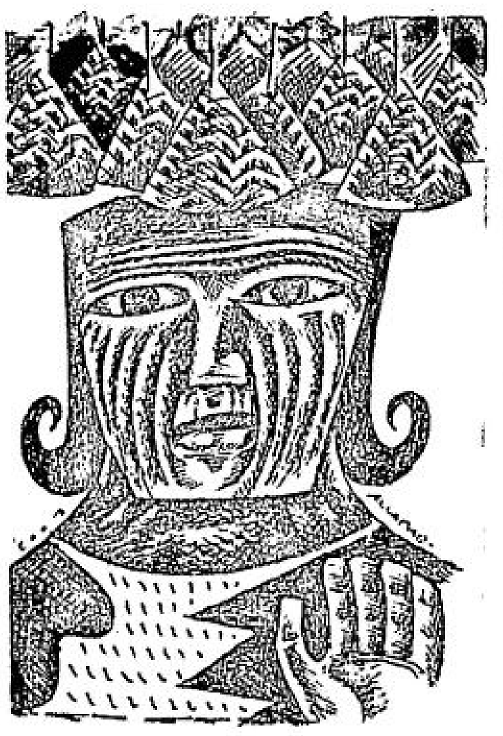
Introducing the Philips Pixel Plus TV. They came, they saw, they raved. Understandably so when you consider the amazing technologies behind the revolutionary Philips Pixel Plus TV. Over 2 million pixels for high-resolution picture quality for all types of input – TV, VCR and DVD player. Digital Natural Motion technology for the smoothest pictures ever, along with a combination of unique innovations for natural, life-like pictures. But don't take their word for it. Visit your nearest dealer for more details.

www.philips.com/pixelplus

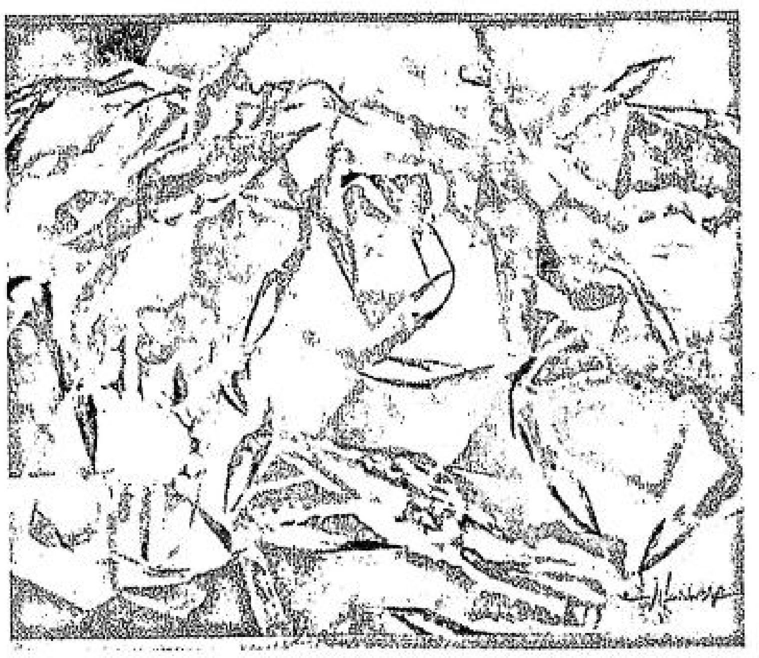
PIXEL PLUS
EISA

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

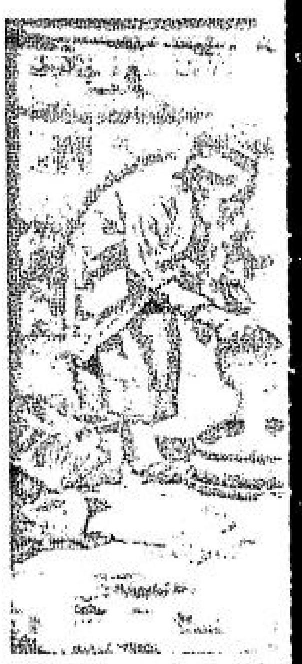
'Rouge' at Celebrity, Limpe at 139, Villan



"LOLA Sol" by Nunelucio Alvarado



"ALIMASAG" by Wilfredo Villanueva



OIL on canvass by Robbie

VISUAL ARTS

THE CHOICE Expression Gallery presents "Rouge," an art exhibit from Feb. 24 to March 9 at the central lobby of the Celebrity Sports Club in Quezon City.

Tam Austria, Edsel Moscoso, Jose Blanco, Angel Cacnio, Remy Boquiren, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Rafael Cusi, Caloy Gabuco, Robbie Nubla, Nemi Miranda and Solomon Saprid are among the top artists to join the Gallery in celebrating love with their artworks at "Rouge."

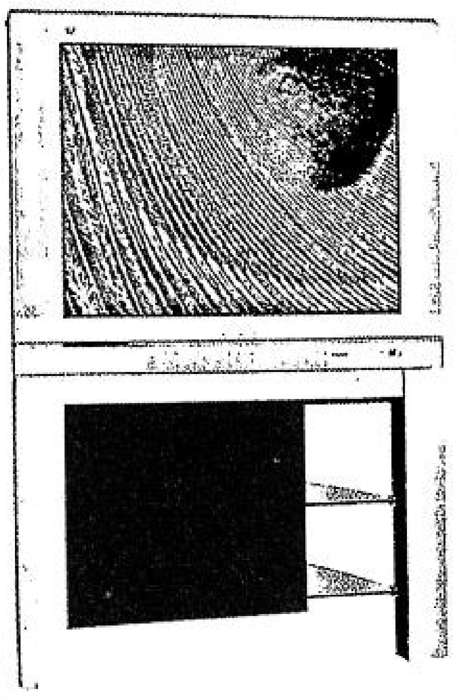
To grace the exhibit are Eduardo and Marietta Barretto, Dr. Raul Edralin, Buena Fe Florentino and Dr. Michael Magabo.

Congressman Aurelio Umali of the third district of Nueva Ecija will give a short talk at the exhibit opening as founder of the Batang Nueva Ecija Foundation, Inc. Part of the exhibit's proceeds will be for the benefit of the medical mission of the foundation. For more details, contact Jerome Jimenez at 531-9285/ 0917-8943293 or Bong Versoza at 679-2362/ 0917-8941405.

BUSINESSMAN-PAINTER Julius Limpe is holding his solo show, "Limpe's Flowers 2003," at Gallery 139 (4/L Megamall) on Feb. 27 to March 11. The builder of the Destileria Limtuaco empire, Limpe is famous for his fish paintings. But for the show he returns to a past subject—flora, a favorite still life. Call 633-7363.

WILFREDO Villanueva mounts a comeback show at the fine dining restaurant-gallery Caffe Maestro (1780 Nicanor Garcia St. [for-

Philips Pixel Plus: Leading the *Resolution Revolution*



No matter how stylishly designed, how big the screen, or how user-friendly a television set is, what matters at the end of the day is how it performs. For the discerning couch potato, the most important criterion of a TV's performance is how clear the resolution is: "Are the pictures bright? Are the images clear?" Does it look natural?". Unfortunately, most TVs don't even live up to expectations.

Fortunately, one company has resolved to give its consumers the best viewing experience, and how! Stepping up to the challenge of providing the TV that gives the best resolution ever is Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), Europe's No.1 consumer electronics company. With its most recent innovation, Philips promises a truly satisfying TV experience, whatever you're watching.

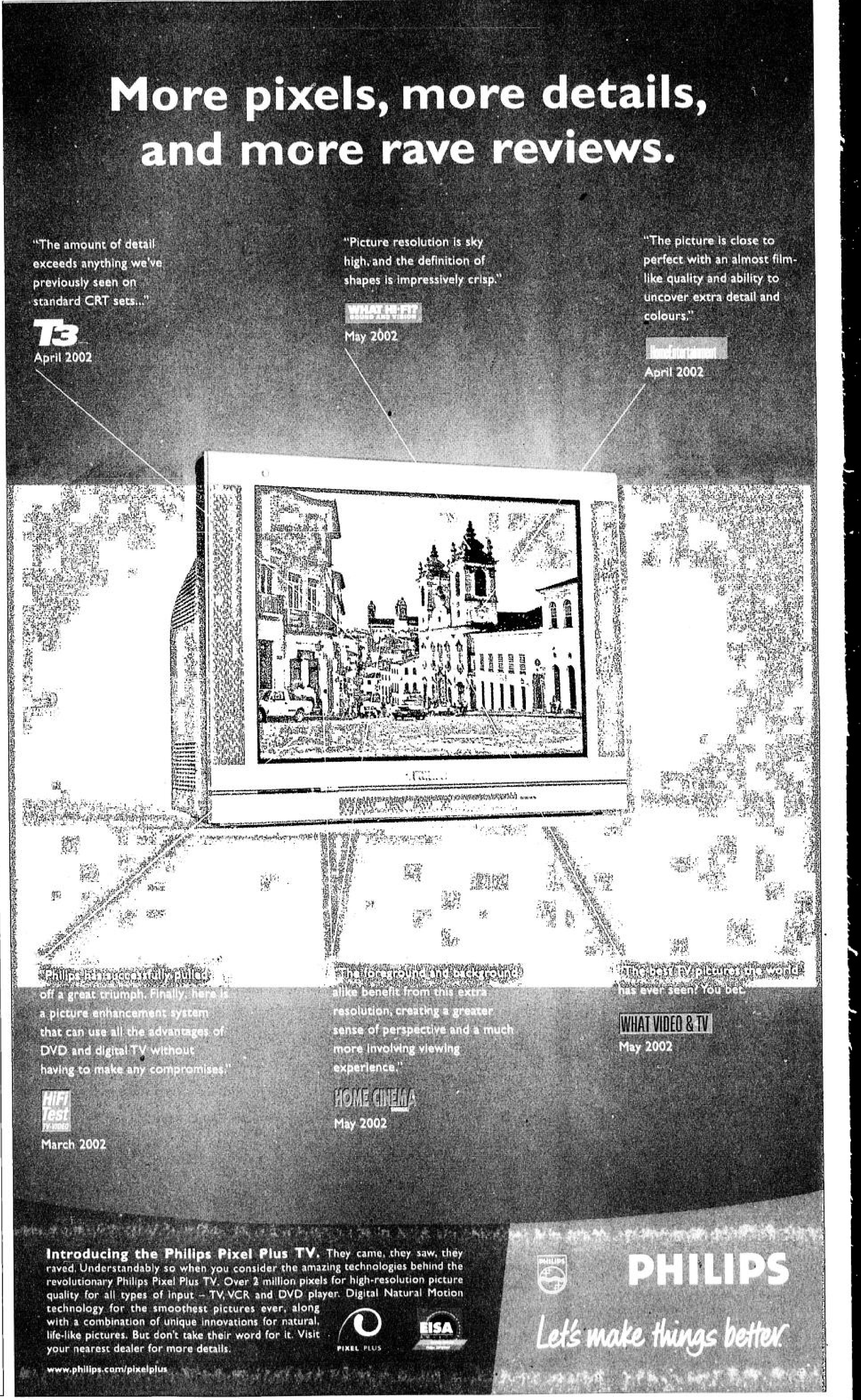
The Philips Pixel Plus is a revolutionary technology that incorporates impressive image processing improvements to bring incredible sharpness, natural detail and depth to the pictures onscreen. This innovation improves the image quality of everything onscreen: from video games, DVD movies, to even ordinary TV signals.

How does Pixel Plus achieve this? By increasing the TV's standard horizontal and vertical resolution, Pixel Plus is able to deliver a world-record breaking 2 million pixels per picture frame, more than 5 times that of conventional television. With that many pixels, this amazing technology achieves dramatic picture quality.

So why does Philips call Pixel Plus revolutionary? Because it is the only TV that provides a resolution that could only be previously achieved in High Definition TV. The achievements of Pixel Plus herald nothing short of a *Resolution Revolution*, unrivalled and unequalled.

And also, for the first time in TV technology, such ultra high resolution comes without compromising field flicker. The sets show stable and flicker-free pictures that are less straining on the eyes, to allow for more relaxing TV viewing. Complemented by the revolutionary

PHILIPS/D5



More pixels, more details, and more rave reviews.

"The amount of detail exceeds anything we've previously seen on standard CRT sets..."
T3
April 2002

"Picture resolution is sky high, and the definition of shapes is impressively crisp."
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
May 2002

"The picture is close to perfect with an almost film-like quality and ability to uncover extra detail and colours."
HomeEntertainment
April 2002

"Philips has successfully pulled off a great triumph. Finally, here is a picture enhancement system that can use all the advantages of DVD and digital TV without having to make any compromises."
HiFi Test TV-VIDEO
March 2002

"The foreground and background alike benefit from this extra resolution, creating a greater sense of perspective and a much more involving viewing experience."
HOME CINEMA
May 2002

"The best TV pictures the world has ever seen? You bet."
WHAT VIDEO & TV
May 2002

Introducing the Philips Pixel Plus TV. They came, they saw, they raved. Understandably so when you consider the amazing technologies behind the revolutionary Philips Pixel Plus TV. Over 2 million pixels for high-resolution picture quality for all types of input – TV, VCR and DVD player. Digital Natural Motion technology for the smoothest pictures ever, along with a combination of unique innovations for natural, life-like pictures. But don't take their word for it. Visit your nearest dealer for more details.

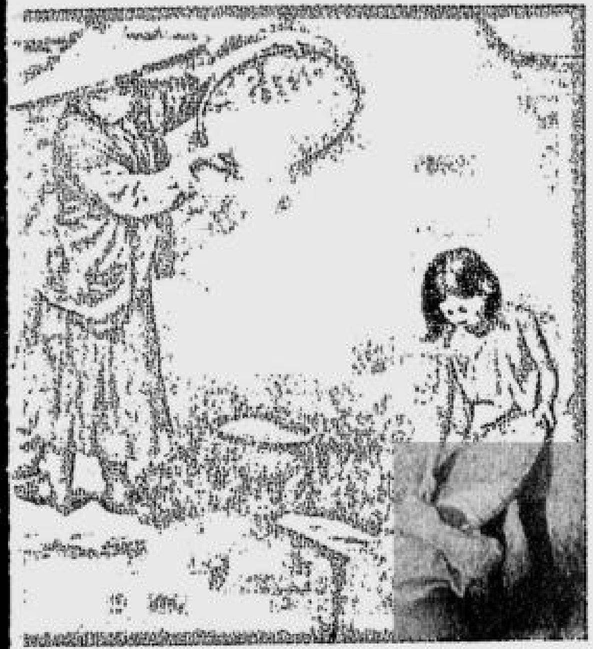
www.philips.com/pixelplus

PIXEL PLUS
EISA

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ueva at Caffe Maestro, Alvarado at West



ubla

merly Reposo], Santiago Village, Makati City. "Arts and Company" runs until March 20. Villanueva's close colleagues participate in the show: Solomon Saprid, Jess Gellada, Elmer Gernale, Rudolf Gonzales, Julius Limpe, Pat Reyes, Loreto Racuya, Lino Severino and Al Perez, who is also the project leader.

A native of Hagonoy, Bulacan, Villanueva was a UK scholar who became an apprentice of Cesar Buenaventura. Later, he became a winner of the Art Association of the Philippines annual contest. His talent placed him in the team that designed the Ayala Museum's famous diorama on the history of the Philippines.

One of Villanueva's masterpieces, the 10' x 30' mural "Edsa Revolution I," hangs on the second floor of Caffe Maestro.

Call 899-7322 or 895-7814.

PHOTOGRAPHER Neal Oshima's exhibit of photograms (prints without the use of cameras) runs until March 3 at Galleria Duemila.

Oshima uses distinctly Filipino national clothing: *barong* Tagalog, *terno, baro* and the *malong.*

Call 634-3261, telefax 633-6687 or e-mail duemila@info.com.ph/galleriaduemila@hotmail.com.; website www.galleriaduemila.com.

DIFFERENT subjects and techniques will be exhibited by the Visualists at its 6th group exhibit entitled, "Brushstrokes" on March 1 at 6 p.m. at the Galerie Y (4/L SM Megamall). Participating artists are Herzon de la Rosa, Carmen Africa, Mona Lisa Arion, Cindy Arms, Cristina Cinco, Myrna Fojas, Evelyn Gamboa, Giovanni, Frannie Jacinto, Lulu Katigbak, Aileen Lanuza, Jenny Leviste, Fely Lopez, Lotsu Manes, Nene Marquez, Beth Periquet, Marilyn Ramos, Rhea, Janet Santos and Charie Zamora.

Invited guests include Oscar Lopez, chairman of the Lopez group of Companies; Mila S. Drilon, wife of Senate President Franklin Drilon; and Pacita Chua.

The exhibit will run until March 10. For inquiries, call 6342704 or e-mail sxherzonf3@hotmail.com.

NUNELUCIO Alvarado pays tribute to the older generation with his exhibit "Lololola," Feb. 27-Mar. 11, West Gallery, SM Megamall. West Gallery (4/L Megamall). Call 634-1284.

Alvarado is a member of the Bacolod-based Black Artists in Asia and founder of the Pamilya Pintura and Pintor Kulapol.

Log on to www24.brinkster.aam/westgallervnet.

LIMPE with one of his petal attractions

ADVERTISEMENT

More pixels, more details and more plus points

Just when you thought you've seen the best in TV picture quality, Philips introduces the Pixel Plus technology. A breakthrough that will change the way you look at detail. Pictures viewed on the Philips Pixel Plus are sharper and have more natural detail and resolution. Not to mention the other plus points: superior sound quality, user-friendly features and ease of connection.

"The best TV pictures the world has ever seen? You bet." – What Video & TV, May 2002

2 million pixels for high-resolution picture quality

Why settle for less when you can have more? Pixel Plus improves horizontal and vertical resolution dramatically. To give you a better idea, when you are watching a DVD movie on a conventional TV (NTSC) there are 525 lines, with 720 pixels on each line displayed on every frame. Pixel Plus doubles the lines and increases the number of pixels to an astonishing 2 million pixels per frame. This gives amazingly sharp pictures with crisp and natural detail, which works for all types of input – normal TV, VCR and DVD.

"Picture resolution is sky high, and the definition of shapes is impressively crisp." – What Hi-Fi, May 2002

Standard PAL TV (625 lines of 720 pixels)
Pixel Plus TV (833 lines of 2048 pixels)
Standard NTSC TV (525 lines of 720 pixels)
Pixel Plus TV (1050 lines of 2048 pixels)

Superb Sound
DOLBY DIGITAL
Dolby Pro Logic
Enjoy the ambience of cinema sound in the comfort of your living room. Dolby Pro Logic will make you feel like you're in the thick of the action.
Bass Reflex Active Subwoofer
The Bass reflex brings out the full depth and body of sound the way it was intended to be. So you won't miss even the snap of a twig.

Picture Perfect
Digital Natural Motion
Philips' signature motion compensation technology, for flicker-free pictures. Digital Natural Motion eliminates the juddering effect that is noticeable when there are moving objects in the picture. It cleverly uses the fields in digital memory to estimate motion of objects in fields and creates new fields that are inserted between the existing frames with corrected motion positions of moving objects. More importantly, Digital Natural Motion technology relaxes your eyes.
Without DNM
With DNM
100Hz Digital Scan
The ultra high resolution introduced by Pixel Plus comes without compromising field flicker. Pixel Plus combines the flicker free performance of 100Hz Digital Scan to ensure the most relaxing viewing experience.

Digital Crystal Clear
A combination of unique innovations that include Dynamic Contrast, Scavem, Digital Comb Filter, Colour Enhancement, Digital Noise Reduction, LTP-2, Colour Temperature Control and CTI. All focused on delivering the most natural life-like pictures ever.

"The foreground and background alike benefit from this extra resolution, creating a greater sense of perspective and a much more involving viewing experience." – Home Cinema Choice, May 2002

Other Plus Points
Full Active Control
The Active Control is a pro-active system that analyses the input picture and automatically adjusts the picture setting (Contrast, Brightness, Colour, etc.) to the optimum.
Compass UI
Philips was one of the first to introduce Graphic User Interface to make interacting with your TV easier. The Compass UI eliminates all additional control bars and strips, so that you only have a single point of control.

Well Connected
The Philips Pixel Plus has been designed with the future in mind. Apart from the latest connections below, it also has the capacity to handle future uses.
- HD Ready
- Progressive DVD input
- RGB Input
- DVD Component Input

Just Rewards
Not that the Pixel Plus needs proof of its quality, but it does hold the EISA Award for "Best European TV of the Year" for 2002/3. It's due reward to the designers and manufacturers of one of the most revolutionary TVs to date.

For more details on the amazing Pixel Plus visit your nearest retailer or log on to www.philips.com/pixelplus

PIXEL PLUS
PHILIPS

Philips Pixel...

From page D4

glass design of the Philips Real Flat Tubes, this TV delivers supreme contrast, brightness and focus all over the screen; reflections are reduced, even in daylight viewing, to give brilliant colors with minimum distortion.

The Pixel Plus also complements other Philips innovations. It works in complete harmony with Philips' award-winning motion compensation technology Digital Natural Motion. The Full Active Control feature, which allows for automatic adjustment of important variables to optimize picture performance, also complements Pixel Plus.

Because of its amazing achievements, Pixel Plus has bagged the top honors from the **European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA)**. Widely recognized as one of the most prestigious award giving bodies in the consumer electronics industry, EISA recently named the Philips Pixel Plus TV the 'Best European TV' for the 2002-2003.

The Pixel Plus TV also received the distinction 'Television of the Year' for 2002. **Media Totaal**, one of Europe's top trade publications.

Top European industry magazines also gave rave reviews for Philips' Pixel Plus. It has landed on the "Best Buy" lists of renowned publications such as ***What Video & TV*** and ***Essential Home Cinema***.

Philips has once again set a new standard in TV viewing with the Pixel Plus, a truly amazing technology that has set off a *Resolution Revolution.*

For further information, please contact:

Elen Torres, Marketing Communications Supervisor
Philips Consumer Electronics
Tel: +632 8457848,
E-mail address:
elena.l.torres@philips.com

About Royal Philips Electronics

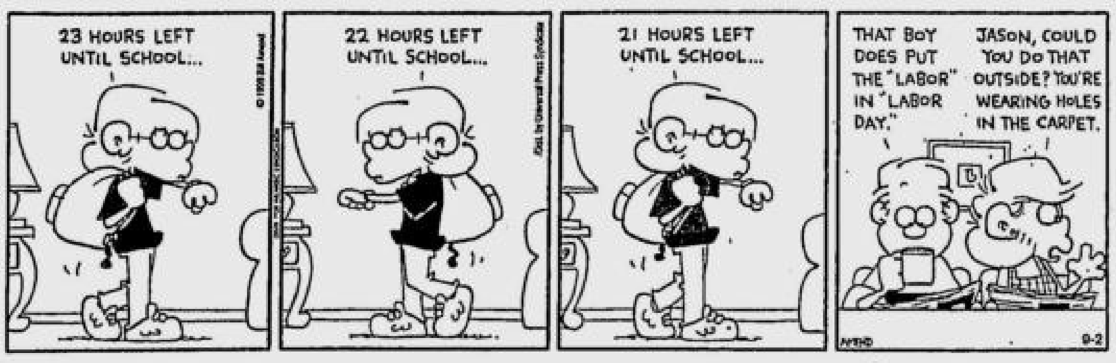
Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of EUR 31.8 billion in 2002. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products. Its 170,000 employees in more than 60 countries are active in the areas of consumer electronics, lighting, domestic appliances, components, semiconductors, and medical systems. Philips is quoted on the NYSE (symbol: PHG), London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.

ADVT.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

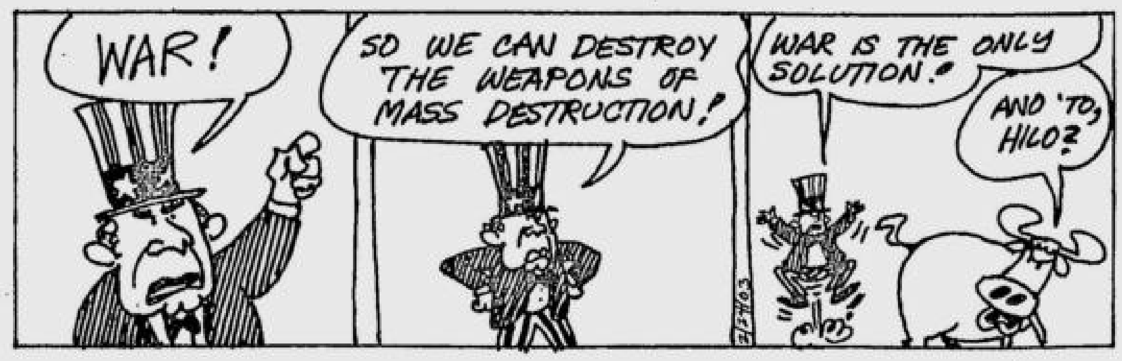
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


23 HOURS LEFT UNTIL SCHOOL...
22 HOURS LEFT UNTIL SCHOOL...
21 HOURS LEFT UNTIL SCHOOL...
THAT BOY DOES PUT THE "LABOR" IN "LABOR DAY."
JASON, COULD YOU DO THAT OUTSIDE? YOU'RE WEARING HOLES IN THE CARPET.
9-2

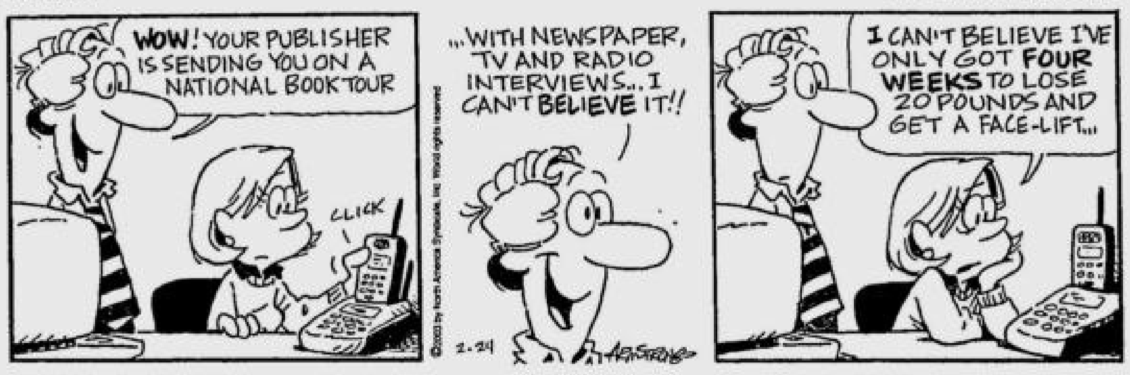
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WAR!
SO WE CAN DESTROY THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION!
WAR IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!
AND 'TO, HILO?
2/24/03

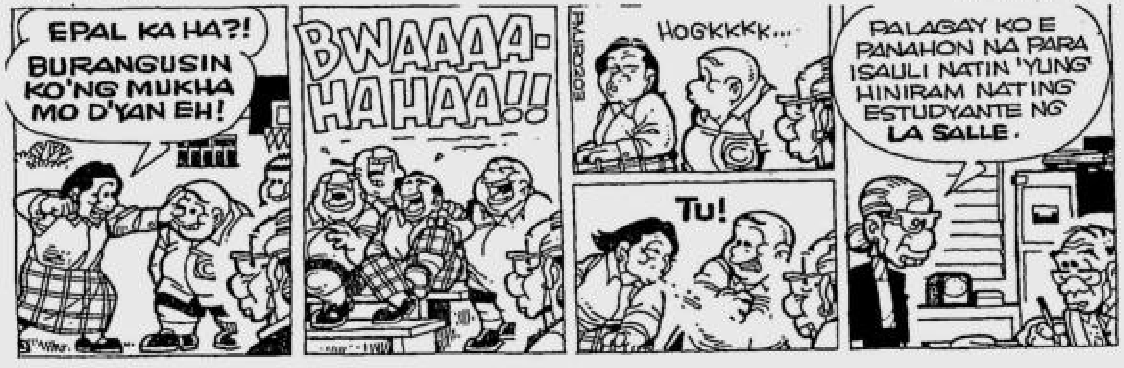
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WOW! YOUR PUBLISHER IS SENDING YOU ON A NATIONAL BOOK TOUR
CLICK
...WITH NEWSPAPER, TV AND RADIO INTERVIEWS...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE ONLY GOT FOUR WEEKS TO LOSE 20 POUNDS AND GET A FACE-LIFT...
2-24

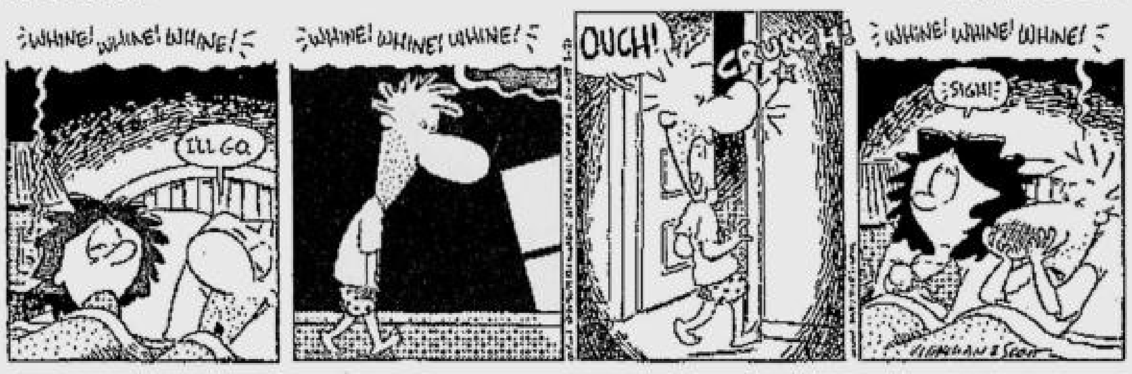
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


EPAL KA HA?!
BURANGUSIN KO'NG MUKHA MO D'YAN EH!
BWAAAA-HAHAA!!
HOGKKKK...
TU!
PALAGAY KO E PANAHON NA PARA ISAULI NATIN 'YUNG HINIRAM NATING ESTUDYANTE NG LA SALLE.

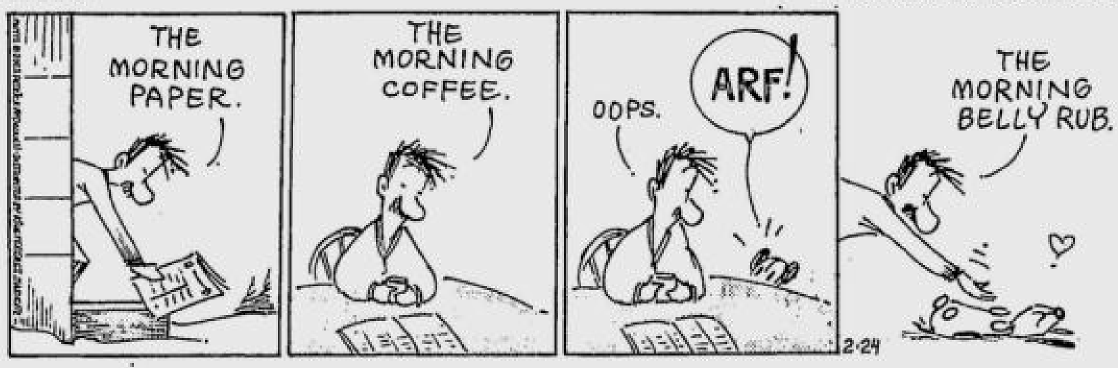
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHINE! WHINE! WHINE!
I'LL GO.
WHINE! WHINE! WHINE!
OUCH!
CRUNCH!
WHINE! WHINE! WHINE!
SIGH!

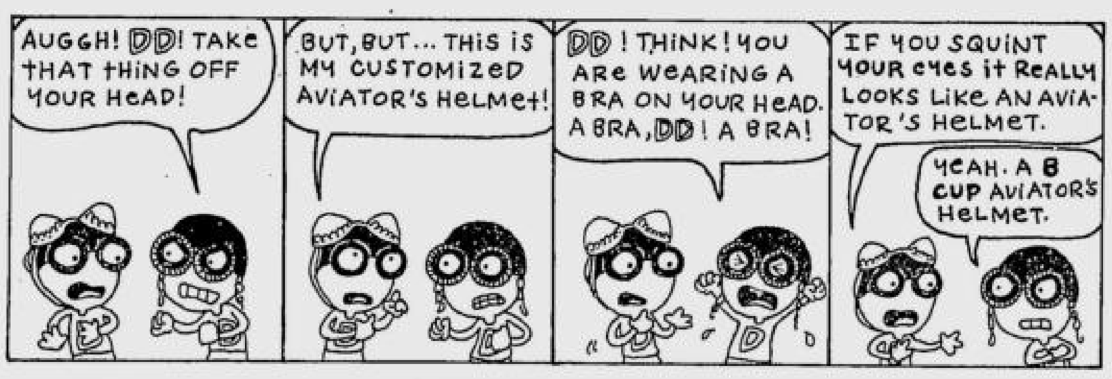
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE MORNING PAPER.
THE MORNING COFFEE.
OOPS.
ARF!
THE MORNING BELLY RUB.
2-24

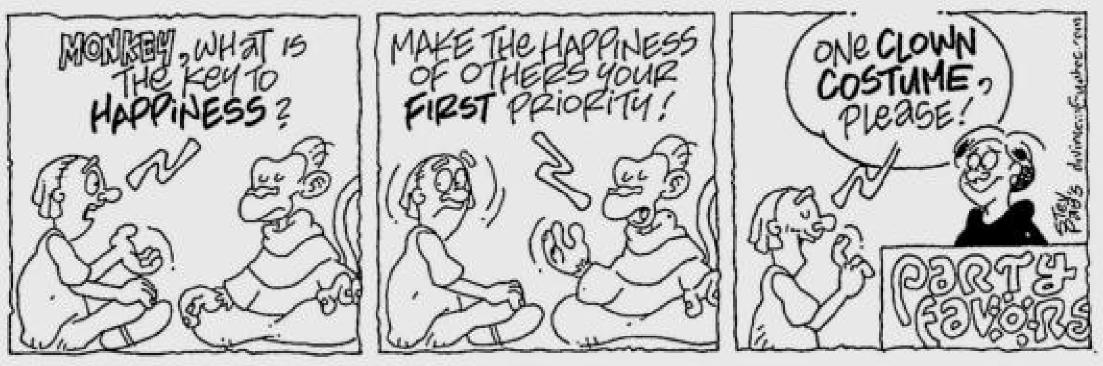
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AUGGH! DD! TAKE THAT THING OFF YOUR HEAD!
BUT, BUT... THIS IS MY CUSTOMIZED AVIATOR'S HELMET!
DD! THINK! YOU ARE WEARING A BRA ON YOUR HEAD. A BRA, DD! A BRA!
IF YOU SQUINT YOUR EYES IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE AN AVIATOR'S HELMET.
YEAH. A B CUP AVIATOR'S HELMET.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MONKEY, WHAT IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS?
MAKE THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY!
ONE CLOWN COSTUME, PLEASE!
PARTY FAVORS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a strong individual. You mean what you say, and you say what you mean. But you are also devoted, generous and loyal. You will give your all for a cause that is near to your heart. This year, enormous changes can take place, perhaps as important as changes that took place around 1994.

Birthdate of: Scott "Carrot Top" Thompson, comedian; Téa Leoni, actress; Sally Jessy Raphael, TV talk-show host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Resist the urge to try to win arguments about politics, religion or philosophical subjects. Not winning does not mean losing. Sometimes it simply means maturity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel intensely about shared possessions and the responsibility for someone or something. Defend your rights; don't give away the farm.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Power struggles with partners or close friends are highly likely today. You have a strong desire to suggest improvements or to try to make somebody over. Alternatively, someone might try to do this to you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are convinced you can suggest improvements at work that will benefit everyone. The problem is, others might not agree with you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Everything having to do with love affairs and romance is passionately intense today. A flirtation with someone could make your heart flutter. Don't risk a solid relationship for a piece of candy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Strong opinions of family members (especially parents) might create disharmony. Be patient with everyone. Instead, use today's energy to make practical improvements at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are persuasive and skilled with words. Nevertheless, try to avoid power struggles and conflict with siblings, neighbors and relatives. Keep to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your desire to buy something is strong today. You are convinced you must have it. This intensity will pass in 24 hours, so you might want to wait.

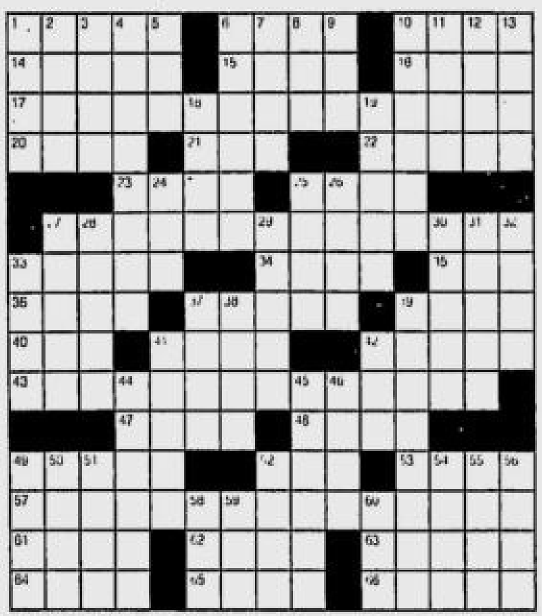
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In encounters with others today, you are convinced you are right. Because of this, you might be a tad pushy. Remember that you can attract more flies with honey than with vinegar.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Vague feelings of self-doubt and insecurity might trouble you today. You fear that behind-the-scenes deals could work against you. Keep to the high road; stay positive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with a friend are intense but perhaps profound. You could meet someone who influences you so strongly that you make major changes in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Authority figures, bosses or parents might be overbearing today. Someone could make a naked power play. You don't have to follow this person if you don't want to.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
2/24/03

ACROSS
1 Degrade
6 Crystal gazer
10 Crooner Jerry
14 Kidney related
15 Corn mix
16 Seth's son
17 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" Oscar winners
20 ERA or RBI
21 Wood and Wynn
22 Renter's contract
23 __ dixit
25 Profligate
27 "From Here to Eternity" Oscar winners
33 Having less coverage
34 Hint
35 "Norma __"
36 Elevator maker
37 Customs
39 Imitate silently
40 Diarist Anais
41 Timbuktu's country
42 Entwined
43 "Hud" Oscar winners
47 God of war
48 Guilty or not guilty
49 Noted violin maker
52 Acapulco aunt
53 Greek letters
57 "The Miracle Worker" Oscar winners
61 Black cuckoos
62 QED part
63 Waited
64 Money factory
65 "Jane __"
66 "Lady of __"

DOWN
1 Liberal __
2 Dog tired
3 Writer Seton
4 Crisp crackers
5 "Do Ya" grp.
6 "Wall Street" co-star
7 Ages and ages
8 Break off
9 "__ River"
10 Wood facing
11 Actress Paquin
12 Superman's sweetie
13 Latin being
18 Pause
19 Slip away from
24 __ excellence
25 Death rattle
26 Weighty burden
27 Composer Erik
28 Privalova or Vorobyeva
29 Pungent
30 Writer Jong
31 Chair designer
32 Land title
33 City on the Rhine
37 Lion's locks
38 Automotive pioneer
39 Ludicrous misuse of a word
41 "West Side Story" song
42 T-shirt size
44 Current
45 Narcotic
46 __ Bator, Mongolia
49 Arkin or West
50 Paul of "Scarface"
51 Related (to)
52 Slope device
54 Common rail
55 Former Spanish piece of Africa
56 "Nana" star Anna
58 Born in France
59 Parched
60 TV network

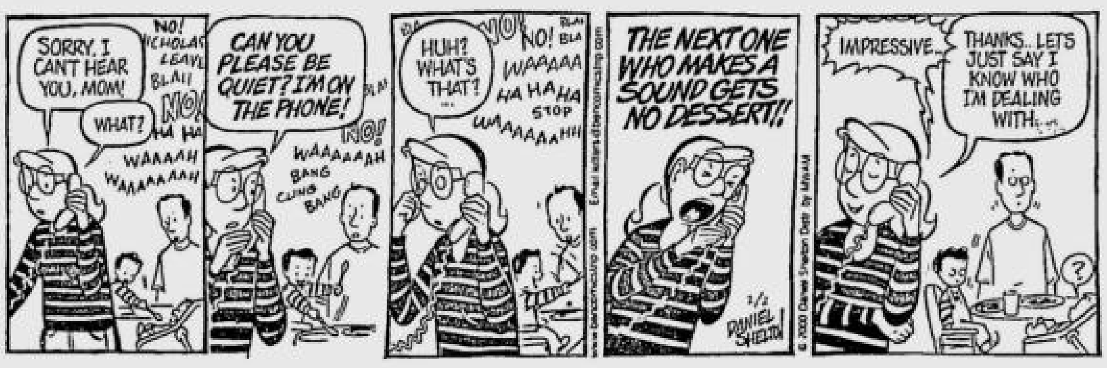
Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	O	S	S	B	O	W	■	M	I	R	I	N	G
H	E	P	T	A	R	C	H	■	O	R	A	T	O	R
A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E	■	T	O	M	A	T	O
S	A	N	E	■	M	A	R	G	I	N	A	L	I	A
S	P	I	L	L	■	D	E	L	O	S	■	I	O	N
I	S	O	B	A	R	■	T	O	N	■	A	C	N	E
S	E	N	A	T	E	■	O	W	L	■	U	S	S	R
■	■	■	N	E	S	S	■	S	E	C	T	■	■	■
T	O	D	D	■	O	P	T	■	S	H	O	A	L	S
O	R	E	S	■	N	O	R	■	S	U	M	M	I	T
R	O	M	■	M	A	R	I	N	■	M	O	M	M	Y
E	G	O	C	E	N	T	R	I	C	■	B	O	I	L
R	E	T	O	R	T	■	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	E
O	N	E	I	L	L	■	M	O	R	A	L	I	S	T
S	Y	D	N	E	Y	■	E	N	T	R	E	A	T	S

(C)2003 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
2/24/03

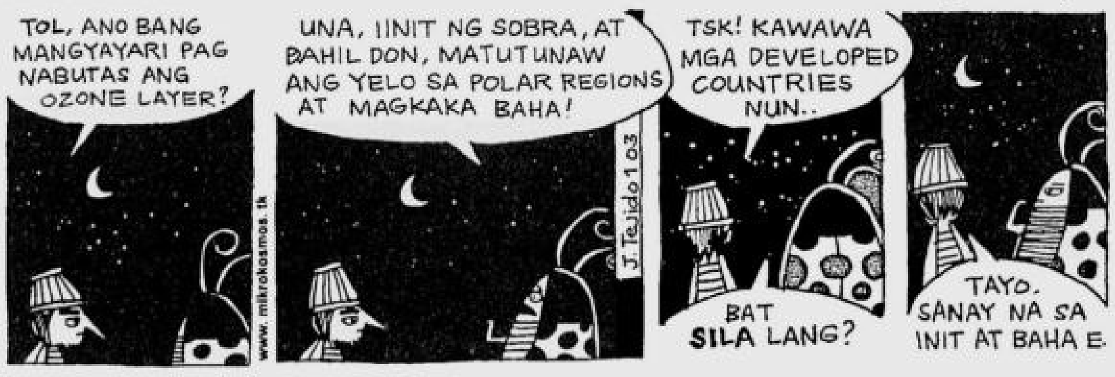
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU, MOM!
NO! NICHOLAS LEAVE BLA!!
WHAT?
NO! HA HA
WAAAAH WAAAAAAAH
CAN YOU PLEASE BE QUIET? I'M ON THE PHONE!
NO!
WAAAAAAAH BANG CLING BANG
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
NO! BLA BLA WAAAAA HA HA HA STOP WAAAAAAAHHH
THE NEXT ONE WHO MAKES A SOUND GETS NO DESSERT!!
IMPRESSIVE...
THANKS.. LETS JUST SAY I KNOW WHO I'M DEALING WITH...
?
2/2
DANIEL SHELTON

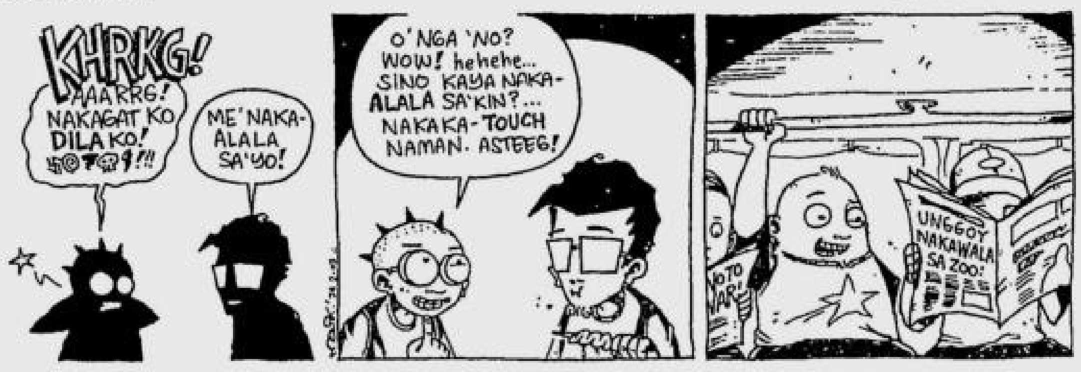
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOL, ANO BANG MANGYAYARI PAG NABUTAS ANG OZONE LAYER?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
UNA, IINIT NG SOBRA, AT BAHIL DON, MATUTUNAW ANG YELO SA POLAR REGIONS AT MAGKAKA BAHA!
J. Tejido 1 03
TSK! KAWAWA MGA DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NUN..
BAT SILA LANG?
TAYO. SANAY NA SA INIT AT BAHA E.

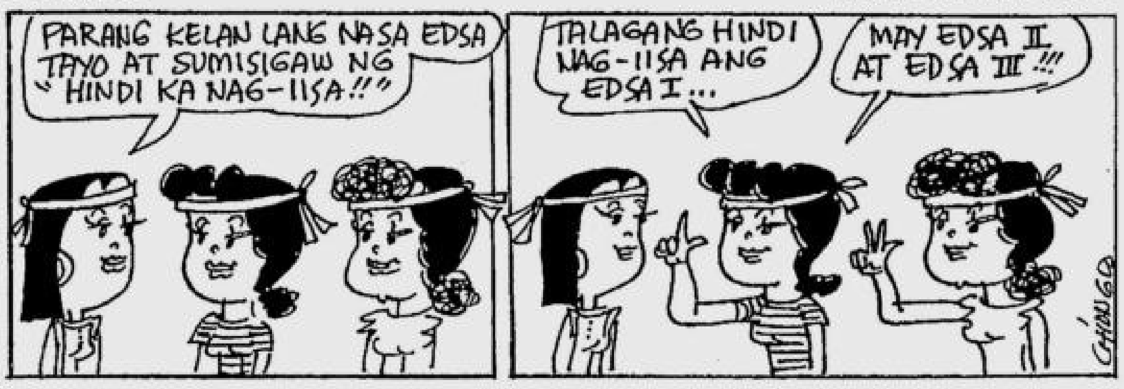
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KHRKG!
AAARRG! NAKAGAT KO DILA KO!
ME'NAKA-ALALA SA'YO!
O'NGA 'NO? WOW! hehehe... SINO KAYA NAKA-ALALA SA'KIN?... NAKAKA-TOUCH NAMAN. ASTEEG!
UNGGOY NAKAWALA SA ZOO!
NO TO WAR!

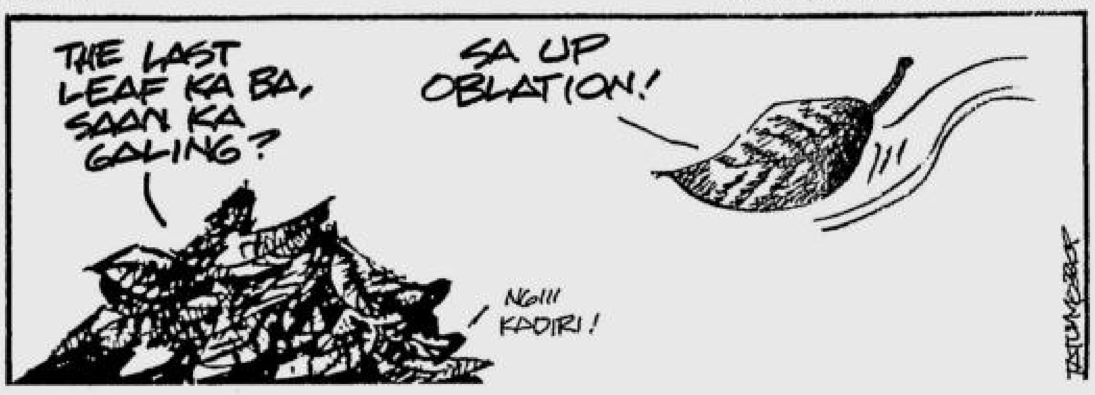
LOVEKNOTS

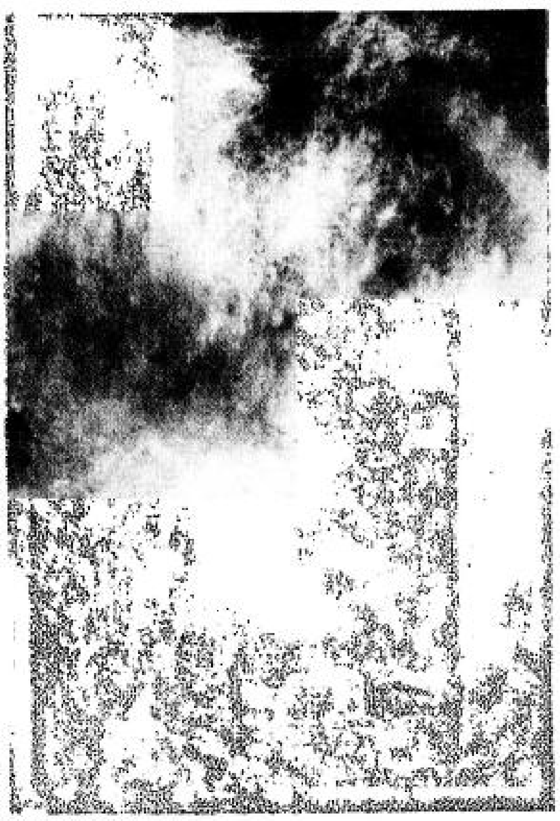
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

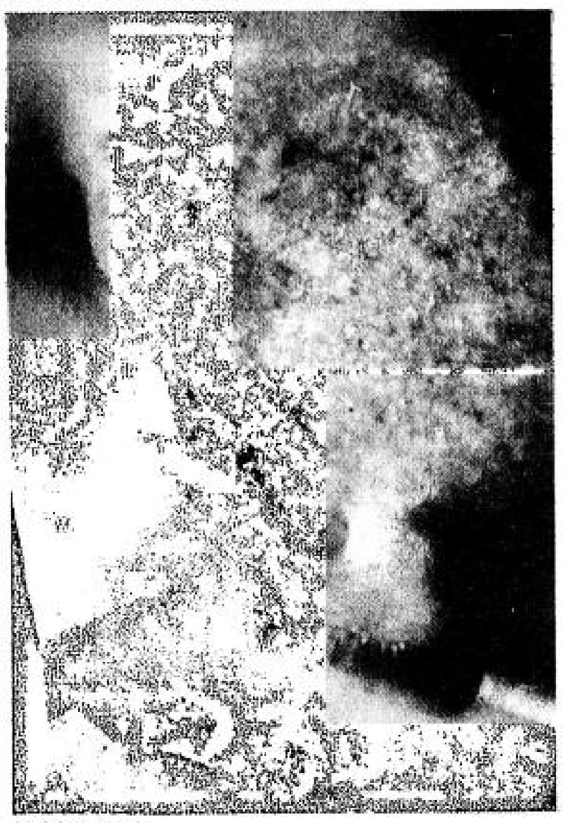

PARANG KELAN LANG NASA EDSA TAYO AT SUMISIGAW NG "HINDI KA NAG-IISA!!"
TALAGANG HINDI NAG-IISA ANG EDSA I...
MAY EDSA II AT EDSA III !!!
CHIONGLO

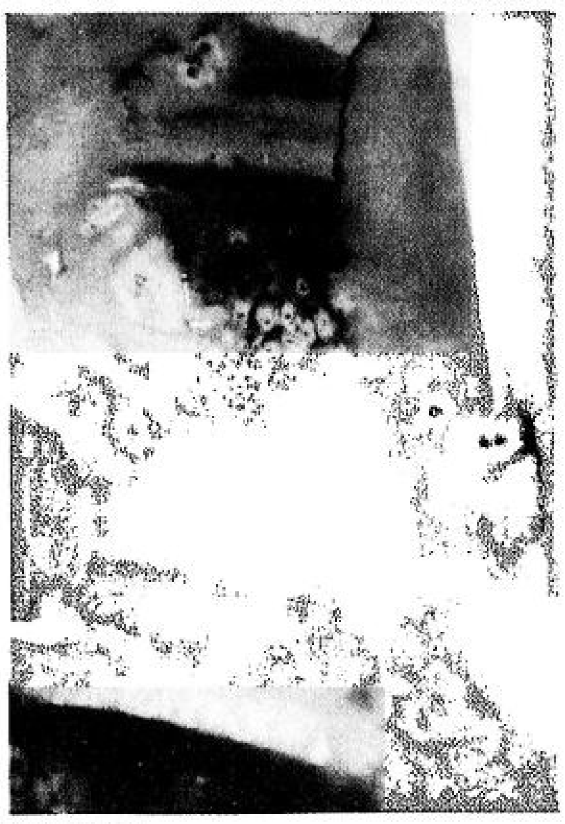
TULDOK

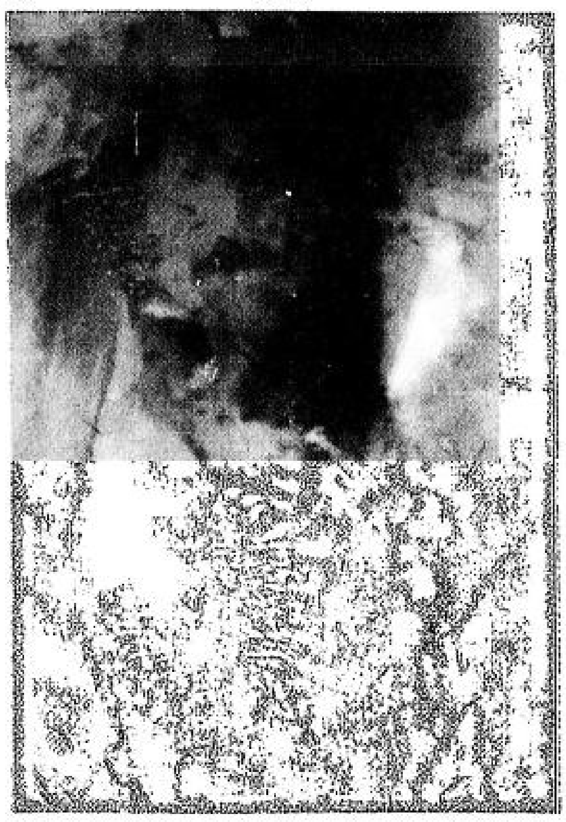
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


THE LAST LEAF KA BA, SAAN KA GALING?
SA UP OBLATION!
NGIII KADIRI!


"RENEWAL"

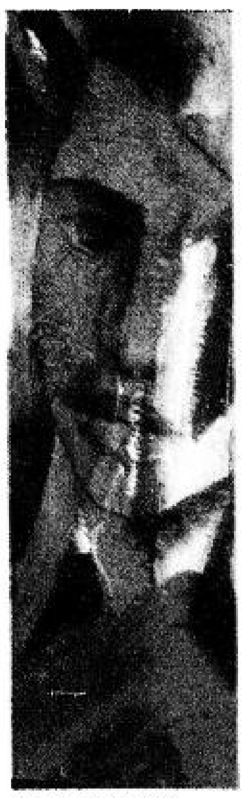

"REBORN"


"WISDOM"


"CREED"

A strikingly new Hermes Alegre

From page D1


"WOMANITY"

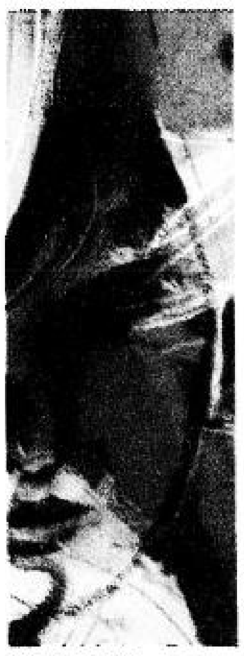
whelming the foreground—is a sense of movement, real and swirling, like a whirlpool of colors coming out of the canvas.

The best word to describe the effect is drawn from Alegre's name—mercurial (Mercury being the Roman version of the Greek mythological figure Hermes). By mercurial we mean animated, lively and sprightly. There is a sense of growth and undergrowth in the old paintings, a throbbing sense of life.

It couldn't have been otherwise. When the paintings made a splash in the art market, Alegre was really creating from his old atelier in Los Baños. Many of the paintings were reworkings of the Mariang Makiling myth. Totally imbibing the mountain environment, Alegre spun his enchanting palette. His works along this vein were the perfect marriage of artistic sensibility and naturalism.

But it could not have lasted this long. Alegre has since uprooted himself from Laguna and relocated to Manila. Two years ago, he said that his paintings were bound to change as he took in the urban mood and tenor.

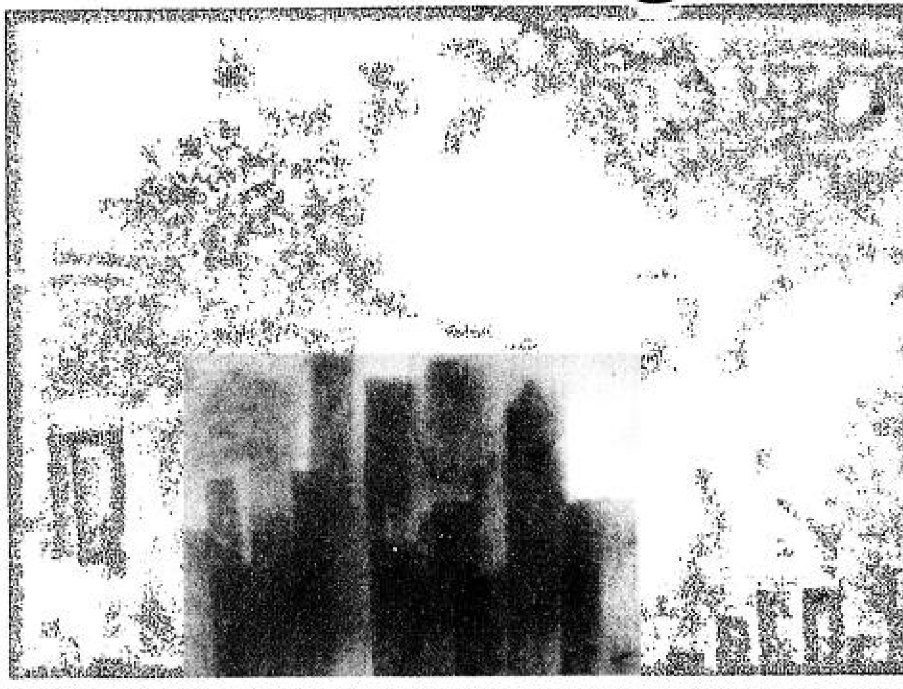
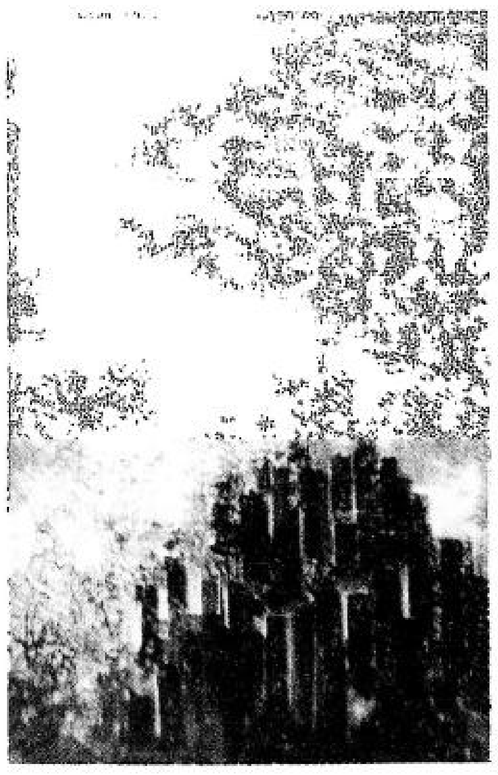
New sensibility


"MAIDEN"

The new look, the new sensibility, as gleaned from Alegre's newest show, "Under Glass," which will open on Friday at the Art Conservatory in Makati, is quite striking. Gone are the dazzling and upbeat colors. In their place are metallic reds, yellows and blacks.

Alegre plays shepherd in providing a transition between the old and new style by basically dividing his show into figurative, representational works of his favorite women faces and figures on the one hand, and abstracts that by and large let the colors do the figuring and the limning on the other.

The women figures are largely in acrylic and pastel on paper. Beneath the shock effect, they still display Alegre's strongest suits: his supreme colorist sense and his mastery of the female form or, in this case, the female face. With their manic strokes, the works do not exactly distort the female form or face, but distort the vintage look we have come to expect of a Hermes Alegre painting. If Alegre were really taking vengeance at something, it would not be at womanhood (or "Womanity" as he puts it in a beautiful work), but at himself.

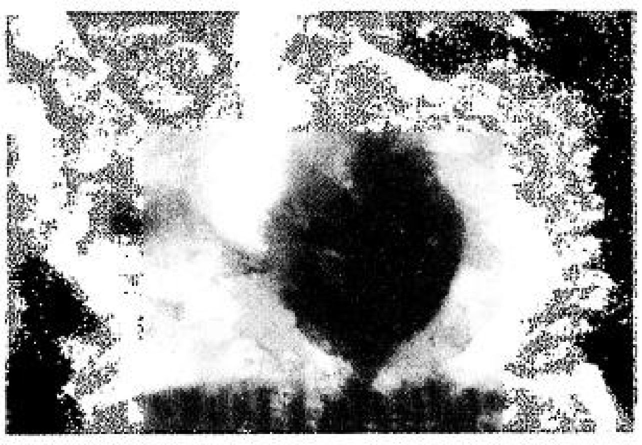


HOMAGE TO 911 VICTIMS. In "Celestial" (above) and "Awakening" (below), Alegre achieves spiritual power.

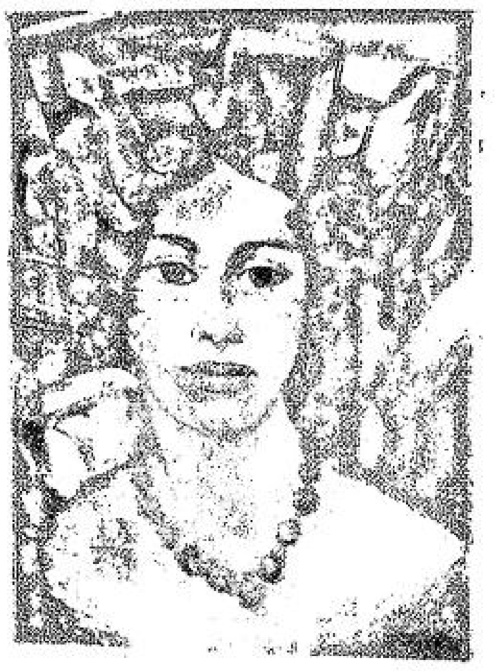
Hermes Alegre is not a woman hater (his wife and female admirers could vouch for that). He just hates to be pigeonholed into just one style even if that style has come to be known as the Hermes Alegre Style.

Spiritual fire

The recasting of the old style is particularly striking in the abstracts that take on a certain spiritual fire that sears the eyes and the heart. Most coruscating of the abstracts perhaps is Alegre's homage to 9/11 in "Awakening" and "Celestial," works in watercolor and pastel on paper that are distinguished by their depth and resonance.

Alegre has achieved something quite rare and intriguing in these works: they throb not only with the horror of the terrorist attacks, but the radiant intensity of hope, like a bonfire of souls suddenly released from the shackles of gravity and existence.


"IMMORTAL"

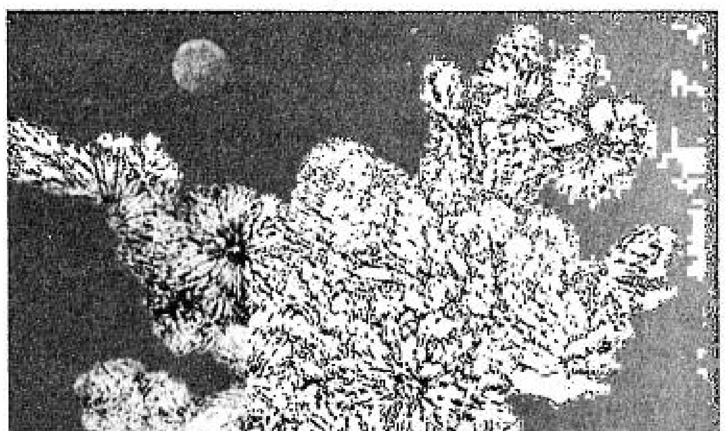

VINTAGE ALEGRE. "Emerald"

The spiritual luminosity is carried through in such works as "Phoenix," "Immortal," "Creed," "Wisdom," "Genesis" and "Reborn," which are achievements in both letting-go and restraint, in stark figuration by stark coloration, in utter prayer by utter abstraction.

In the end, the works in Alegre's exciting new exhibit break out of the mold with which his collectors have constructed their image of the artist. He breaks out of the glass under which he has been framed by an art world so used to the rote of predictability that it has forgotten that art is above all a breaking free, like the spirit that blows where it may.

"Under Glass," featuring the recent works of Hermes Alegre, runs from Feb. 28 to March 14 at the Art Conservatory, G/F PJ Lhuillier Corporate Center, corner N. Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.) and Kalayaan Ave., Makati City. Call 895-0753 or 895-1777 locals 1101 and 1102.

Sanso pays tribute to Filipinas in 'Primavera'


"A SILENT WING"

INTERNATIONAL artist Juvenal Sanso holds his first major exhibit for 2003 at the newly opened Galerie Joaquin (371 corner P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan). Titled "Primavera," the show opens on Feb. 28, 7 p.m., and runs until March 14.

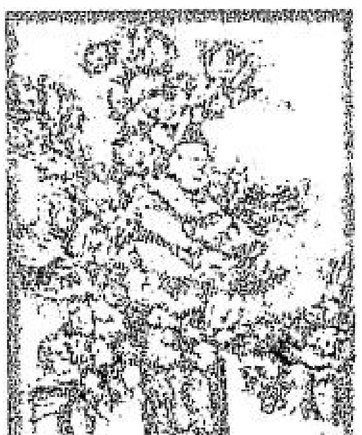
"Primavera" features Sanso's colorful and lush flowers, blooms and landscapes. The works show Sanso's belief that the Philippines is a country in eternal spring. He suggests a second name for the country—"Primavera Islands"—due to the islands' "glorious greens, fruitful and powerful scents, generous sunlight, brilliant beaches in thrilling effulgence. The country is a celestial fire with the heart of flame and riotous flowers. A lyrical daydream!"

Born in Catalunia, Spain, in 1929, Sanso moved to Manila five years later where he spent his youth and studies. A student of the UP School of Fine Arts and of the University of Santo Tomas, Sanso later went to Europe where he pursued further studies in art at the Academia di Belle Arti in Rome and the L'Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-Arts.

Sanso has been traveling extensively and has had major solo exhibitions in Italy, the United States, England, Mexico and Spain while coming back to Manila regularly for shows and to renew his roots.

In 1964, Sanso's "Fleurs" was adjudged Print of the Year by the Cleveland Museum of Art, elevating Sanso to the rank of previous winners that included Henri Matisse and Salvador Dali.

Call 723-9253 or e-mail galeriejoaquin@yahoo.com.

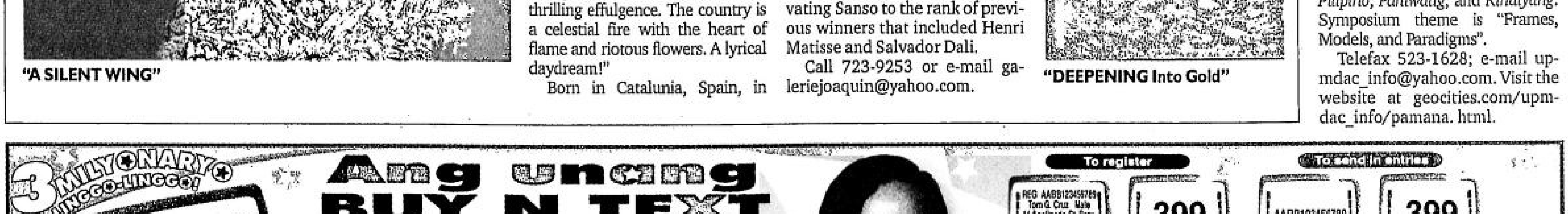

"DEEPENING Into Gold"

UP hosts cultural heritage symposium

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Department of Arts and Communication (UPM-DAC) is holding "Pamanang-Bayan: the first NCR Networking and Training Symposium for Cultural Heritage Educators, Trainors and Promoters," 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 26-27, at the UPM College of Arts and Sciences Little Theater.

Supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the symposium will have 19 resource speakers from various educational and cultural institutions. Topics include *Dambanang Bayan*, *Pamathalaan*, *Tolus*, *Pilipino Loob/Buting Pinoy*, *Pilosopiyang Pilipino*, *Pahiwatig*, and *Kinaiyang*. Symposium theme is "Frames, Models, and Paradigms".

Telefax 523-1628; e-mail upmdac_info@yahoo.com. Visit the website at geocities.com/upmdac_info/pamana. html.


3 MILYONARYO LINGGO-LINGGO!
Join BUY N TEXT
Ang unang BUY N TEXT Millionaire!
Joseph M. Dendiego
Lingayen, Pangasinan
February 17, 2003, Monday Winner
To register
<REG> <BNTcode> <COMPLETE NAME> <SEX> <COMPLETE ADDRESS> <BIRTHDATE>
Ipadala sa 399 - Smart or Talk 'N Text
To send in entries
I-type ang BNT Code
Ipadala sa 399 - Smart or Talk 'N Text
Abangan ang next BUY N TEXT Millionaire!

No collateral. No guarantor. So what do you need to get cash from ₱10,000 to ₱400,000?

Just 48 hours.

CitiFinancial gives you the freedom to deal with life's opportunities and financial needs really fast. Get cash from ₱10,000 up to ₱400,000...in just 48 hours!

48-hour loans for those who act fast.

citi financial

CitiFinancial Corporation

A member of citigroup

*All loans subject to Credit Standards, Terms and Conditions

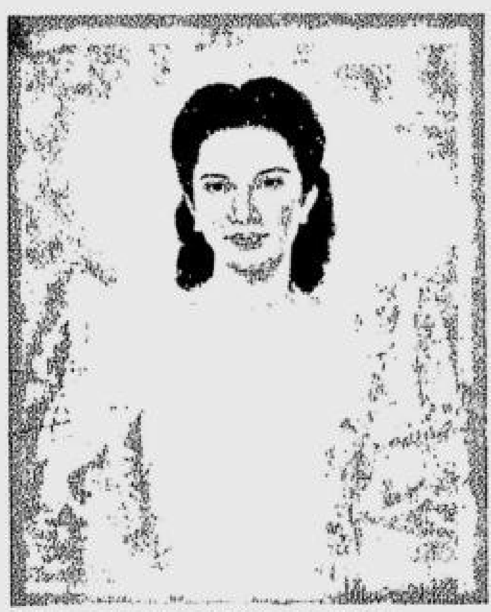
CALL US AT YOUR NEAREST CONSUMER LOAN OFFICE:

Pasay Road 752 8705 • Taft Ave. 525 7790 • Cubao 421 0910 • Marikina 668 1833 • Imus (046)472 1449 • Calamba (049)545 9021 • Cebu (032)231 5855

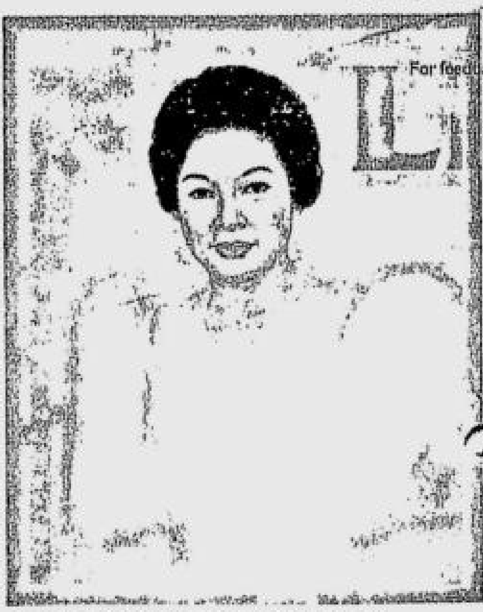
For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Books



VICTORIA Syquia Quirino-Gonzalez



EVANGELINE Macaraeg Macapagal

Women behind the throne get their own history page

FOR over a century, they have been etched into the nation's political and social fabric, often carrying out their duties unsung and unheralded, but always with unfailing grace.

They are the First Ladies of the Philippines who are now given their individual pages in history as well-known Spanish journalist and writer Jose "Pepe" Rodriguez explores their life and times in "Philippine First Ladies—Portraits." The book is published by the Tantoco-Rustia Foundation.

In a light yet analytical style, Rodriguez delves into the contribution and impact made by each of the 12 ladies thus far whose fate it was to be bestowed the title of First Lady of the Philippines.

The book focuses on the lives of the First Ladies as wives, mothers, and, in one singular instance, as daughter (in the case of Vicky Quirino) to the Presidents of the Republic in the midst of revolution, war, political turmoil and economic challenges from 1898 to the present.

WOMEN/ E2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

RON ANTONIO LIVE

Meet the newest balladeer as he performs songs from his debut album under Ivory Records.

February 28, Friday 4PM
Fountain Area
Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa

ROBINSONS Sta. Rosa LAGUNA
visit us at www.robinsonsland.com

Life Doesn't Come With Guarantees, But WCT has 3 of them!

Guarantee: Education par excellence with 36 years of leadership and excellence.
Guarantee: Qualitative & Personalized results based on international standards.
Guarantee: Dramatic change in your speech and personality.

Enrol In a Package, P2,300 per course only

- Speech Dynamics: Master Oral Skills
- Practical Grammar & Conversations : Fluency and Mastery of the English Language
- Public Speaking • Glamour Ride
- Verbal Advantage: Complete Package
- Survival English: or Basic English

Scheds: Wed 6-8PM; Sat 9-1PM or 1-5PM; SUN 9-12NN

WCT Kiddie Academy
(From 3 to 15 years old)
(With 7 Areas of Concentration: Speech, Theater Arts, Grammar, English Fluency, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg. & Personality Development)
Saturdays 9-12 NN or 1-4 PM

• TOEFL • TSE • IELTS
Corporate Training & Private Tutoring are available

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
LEGARDA, SAMPALOC
2600 Rizal Hall, Arellano University
736-7656
736-7657
736-7644
SINCE 1967
Providence Bldg.
55 Annapolis, Greenhills
c/o Sampaloc

ENROLMENT FOR SUMMER NOW ACCEPTED

GETAWAY

HOTEL LA ROCA
BOHOL'S FIRST
Mla: 634.2029 Main : (038) 411.3179
www.larocagroup.com
BOHOL EDUCATIONAL TOURS
P 1,825.00 3D/2N
P 1,230.00 OVERNIGHT
- CHOCO HILLS & PANGLAO ISLAND
- FULL BOARD & TRANSFERS

SUNLINK travel
1700 Ma.Orosa St.,Malate,Mla.
526-6907/526-6545/526-4114
3D/2N BORACAY PROMO!
SEAWIND RESORT P 5,745.00
WILLY'S RESORT P 4,673.00
BORACAY PLAZA P 3,492.00
LA LUNA COURT P 2,950.00
*VALID UNTIL MAY 31,2003

TIERRA DE ORO RESORT • HOTEL
Brgy.San Antonio 1,San Pablo City
☎(049) 562-3084/246-1782
Cell #:(0917)-7588790
SEMINAR PACKAGE
P 650.00 ONLY
INCLUSIONS:
• AIRCON ROOM • 2 SWIMMING POOL
• MEAL BUFFET STYLE

Riverview
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
CALAMBA, LAGUNA www.riverview.com.ph
BED & BREAKFAST
P1,199/ROOM
MLA OFC: 925-8858
TEL.: (049)545-1856/2112

PUERTO GALERA ADVENTURE
Call: 0917-TX-N-SAVE
DIVER P3,500
4 MEALS, 4 DIVES, A/C RM
NON-DIVER P2,000
4 MEALS, A/C RM.
FREE INTRO DIVE

FOREST HILLS Village Resort SUBIC BAY
HALL OF THE GOLD CARD
FOR THE CHEAPEST HOLIDAY RATE!
☎726-2541 / 726-2521
Cel # (0917)899-1392

Subic INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
Freeport Zone Subic Bay Olongapo City
TEL.243-2222 TO 33 / FAX : 243-0852
SUBIC OUTING 2003
P 1,300
Minimum of 48 persons or 12 Rooms

WHITE ROCK BEACH HOTEL
☎:421-2781/82/84/85/86
Fax:421-2785/83
• RESTAURANT / BAR / KTV

MC MOUNTAIN HOME
Tagaytay
P 1,700 NET
W/ BREAKFAST FOR 2
TEL.# : (02) 850-5438
(046)413-2232
CEL # : (0917)794-7500

ACL Suites
#72 13th Ave., Cubao, Q.C
info@aclsuites.com.ph
www.aclsuites.com
P 550-700-900
DISCOUNT REWARDS ON RATES
913-2123 TO 25 / 438-3264
FAX NO. 438-3263

Ramberry Suites
90 Matatag St. Central Dist. Q.C.
920-10-99, 920-44-73
FREE BREAKFAST
P 550 / ROOM
OPEN 24 HOURS
Daily - Weekly - Monthly

422-9877 • 421-6736 • 912-3275

MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
VIA AIR MAIL
AT YOUR DOORSTEP

We now DELIVER our worry-free weight management program to your home or office worldwide.

Enroll with a Friend!
Lose Weight Together and Pay for Only One With Our New Weight Loss Program for Two

SERVICES: • WEIGHT LOSS • BOTOX • WEIGHT GAIN
• DERMASTAR - Skin Whitening, Acne Peel, Anti-Ageing
• COSMETIC SURGERY - Liposuction, Breast Augmentation, Noselift, Treatment of VARICOSE VEINS
• DENTAL HAVEN - Braces, Bleaching, Laminate
MASSAGE / 300

Please call for more details
373•0766
374•2437
371•8886
371•8887
373•3365
373•3366

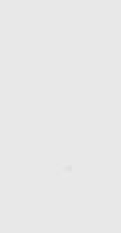
ROSY PEEL
For rosier cheeks

Weigh Less Center
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
WEIGH LESS CENTER BINONDO 4-a San Fernando St., Binondo Tel 245-4860 / 245-4863
WEIGH LESS CENTER GREENHILLS 3rd Flr. Shoppesville Plus
CLINICA MANILA 2F Bldg. SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
WEIGH LESS GLORIETTA 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Makati City
WEIGH LESS ALABANG 2F Casa Filipina Arcade, Alabang Town Center Muntinlupa City
WEIGH LESS SM PAMPANGA SM City Annex, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. 045 961 6845
WEIGH LESS DAGUPAN 2nd Flr The CSI MALL Lucao District, Dagupan City Tel 075-5234030
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

E-mail: weighless@pacific.net.ph / Website: www.weighlesscenter.net

• Get 50% OFF on monthly subscription rates for the first 6 months, then enjoy DOUBLE Internet Hours for the next 3 months. Compare Super Cyber Deal's hi-speed internet rates to anyone else's offer, and see if you can get a better deal. Sign up now!

An internet rate-per-minute so low, you can actually get change for these.



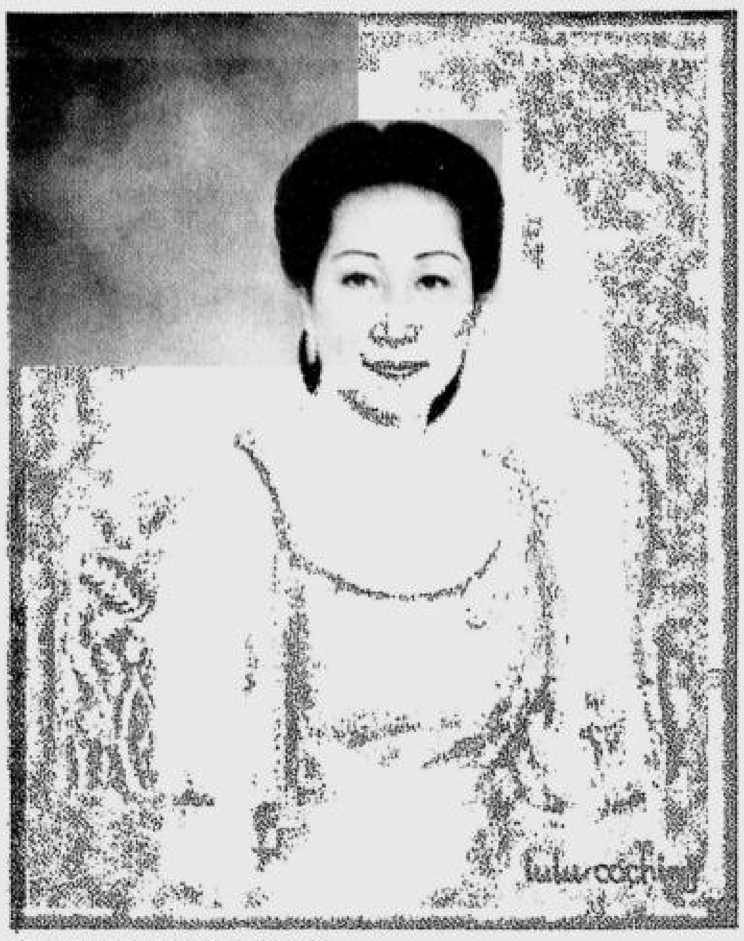
P 0.18 per minute.*
Infocom's Super Cyber Deal.

SUPER CYBER DEAL

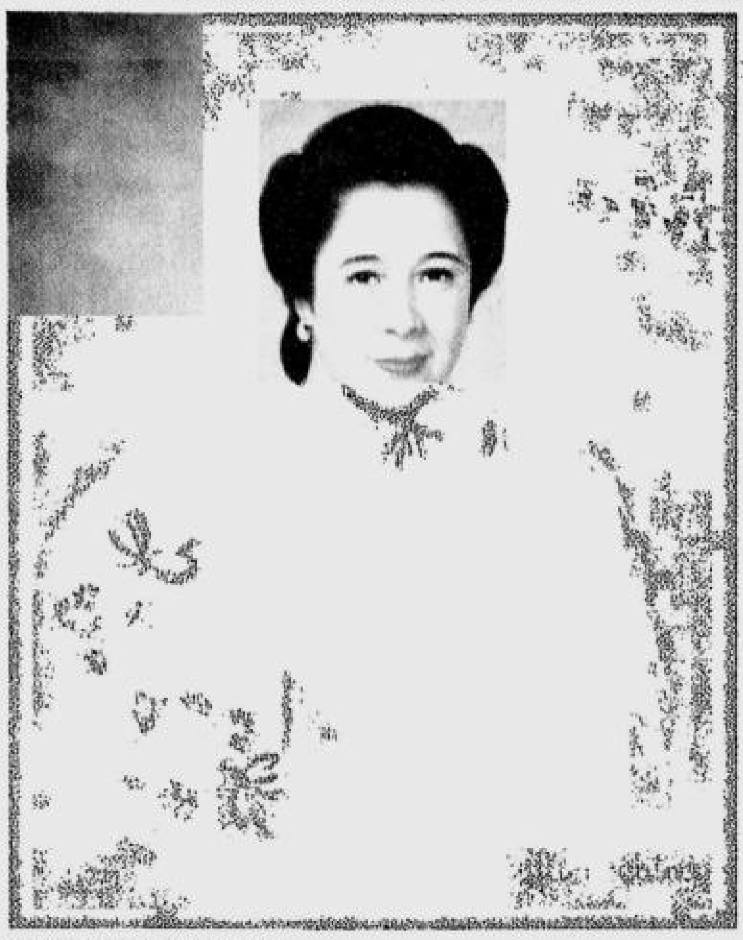
Regular monthly rates shall apply on the 7th month onwards. Promo period from February 1 to April 30, 2003. See brochures for details.
INFOCOM Sales Hotline : 859-8888, 24-hour Fone Express: (Metro Manila) 859-8000, (Outside Metro Manila) 1-800-10-INFOCOM (4636266) www.info.com.ph.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0200. Series of 2003.

Plan Type	Regular Monthly Service Fee	50% OFF	Rate per minute*	Regular Plan Hours	DOUBLE Hours
Extralite 10	P 396.00	P198.00	P 0.33	10	20
Lite 15	550.00	275.00	0.30	15	30
Pro 30	990.00	495.00	0.28	30	60
Super 60	1,430.00	715.00	0.20	60	120
Elite 85	1,837.00	918.50	0.18*	85	170

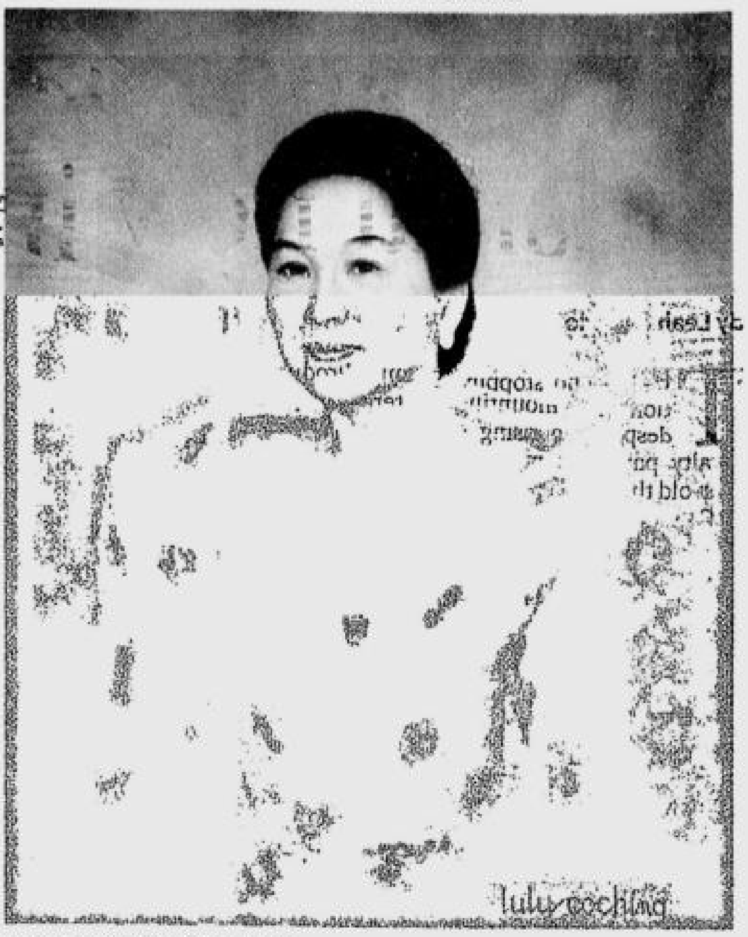
THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT
infocom
The high-powered choice



ESPERANZA Limjap Osmeña



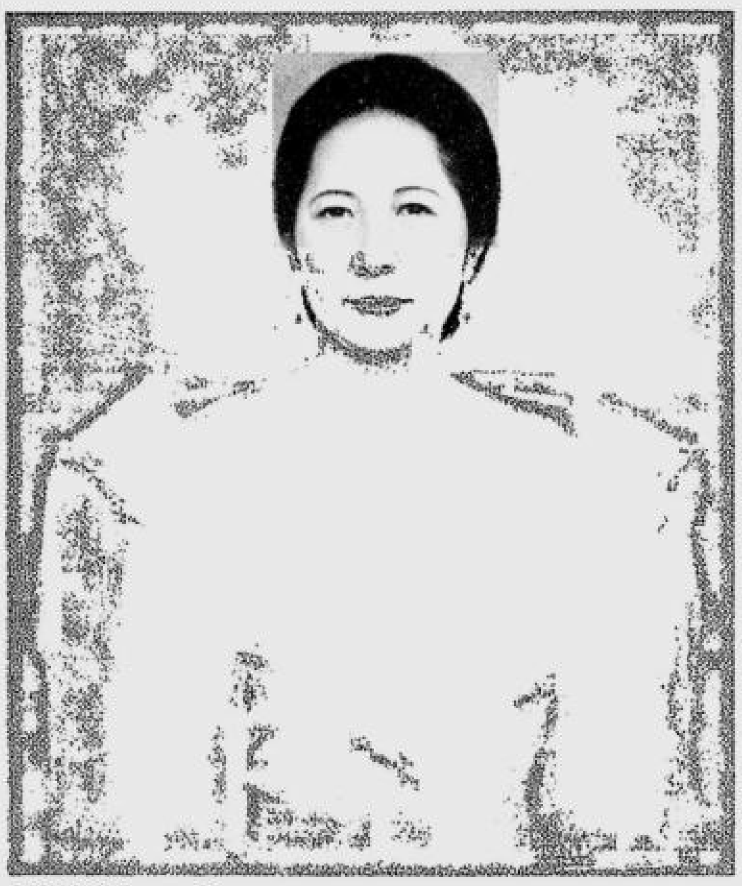
TRINIDAD de Leon Roxas



PACIENCIA Hidalgo Laurel

Women behind the throne get their own history page

Spanish journalist Pepe Rodriguez and portraitist Lulu Coching-Rodriguez pay tribute to the institution of the Philippine First Lady



AURORA Aragon Quezon

AMBASSADOR Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., publisher of the book, and author Jose Rodriguez

From page E1

The book is a collaboration between Rodriguez and his wife, Lulu Coching-Rodriguez, the artist commissioned in 2000 by the Cabinet Ladies Foundation to paint all of the First Ladies so that their portraits could be hung in the Malacañang Palace.

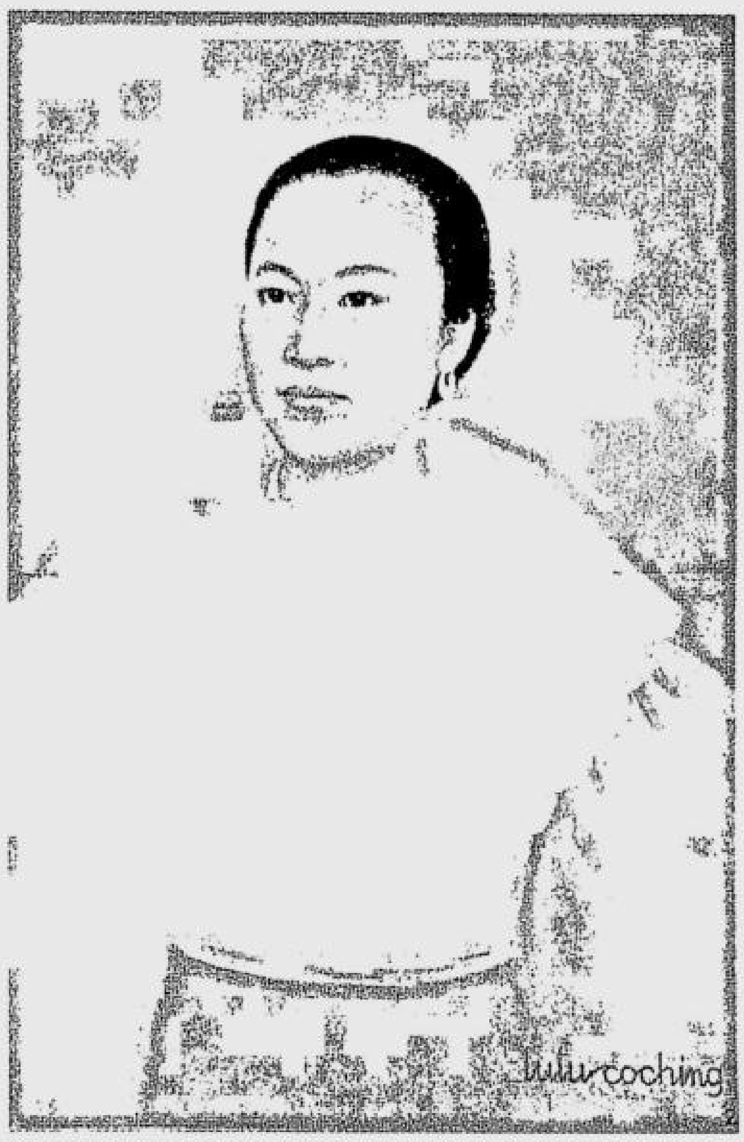
"Philippine First Ladies—Portraits" will be launched at a cocktail reception in the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. The oil portraits of the 12 First Ladies painted by Lulu Coching, all of which appear in the book, will also be unveiled on this occasion.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose mother Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal is featured in the book as the country's ninth First Lady, will be the keynote speaker.

Former First Ladies Luz Banzon-Magsaysay, Vicky Syquia Quirino, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, Amelita Martinez-Ramos and Luisa Ejercito-Estrada will cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the program.

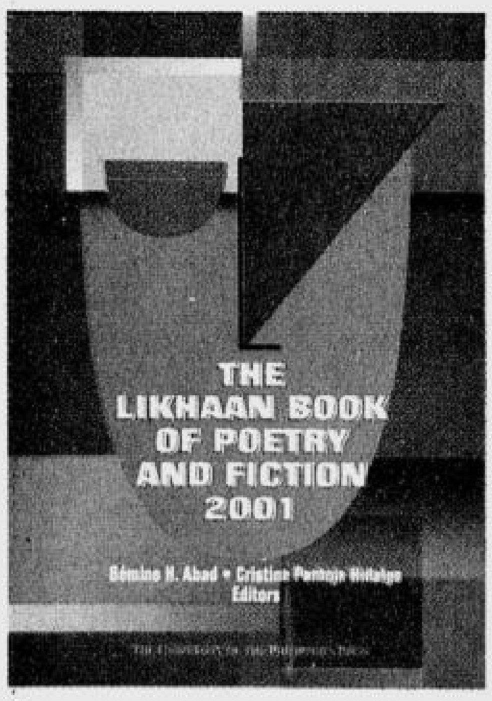
Invited to do the unveiling of the 12 portraits are members of the First Ladies' families, such as Justice Ameurfina M. Herrera, Rosalina Aguinaldo, Cesar E.A. Virata, Nini Avanceña, Manolo Quezon, Rosie Valencia, Sotero and Doy Laurel, Ruby and Mar Roxas, Louie and Ruby Gonzalez, Jun Magsaysay, Mila Valenzuela, Jose Carlos Campos, Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Imee and Bongbong Marcos, Irene Araneta, Cristina Ramos, Gloria Ramos, Angelita Ramos, Carolina Ramos, Jacky Lopez and Jude Ejercito.

For further information, contact Nettie de Villa of the Tantoco-Rustia Foundation at 897-8539.



HILARIA del Rosario Aguinaldo

Latest Likhaan poetry and fiction series out


THE LIKHAAN BOOK OF POETRY AND FICTION 2001
Gémino H. Abad • Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo
Editors

THE LIKHAAN Book of Poetry and Fiction 2001, the 13th in the series of bilingual Likhaan books, was recently released by the UP Press and the UP Institute of Creative Writing.

This volume, edited by two of the Institute's associates, Gemino H. Abad and Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, contains the editors' selection of the best short stories and poems in English published in 2001. A companion volume, containing the best fiction and poetry in Filipino, edited by Domingo Landicho and Lilia Quindoza Santiago, is forthcoming.

UP Press and Likhaan have been coming out with these twin anthologies since 1995 as a special project of UP Diliman Chancellor Emerlinda Roman. The series has been lauded not just for its literary value but as literary history, since it constitutes a record of significant writing trends and important contributors to the literary scene, both established and emerging. The associates, advisers and resident fellows of Likhaan take turns in editing the books.

This new volume contains the latest work of both Carlos Palanca Hall of Fame winners like Krip Yuson, Leoncio Deriada and Jose Y. Dalisay, Jr., and the work of new voices like Mookie Katigbak, Carlomar Daoana, Joe Bert Lazarte and April Yap. Some expatriate writers are included—Linda Ty Casper, Luisa Igloria, Reine Arcache Melvin, Norma Miraflor, and Merlinda Bobis. The works of INQUIRER's poet-journalists Ruel de Vera and Lito Zulueta are also included. The book also contains introductory essays by the editors, explaining their choices, and giving brief descriptions of the Philippine literary scene today.

Abad, the volume's poetry editor, is himself a much-awarded poet and scholar, who holds the highest rank at the UP as university professor. Hidalgo, the book's fiction editor, has also received several awards for her fiction and essays. Both served as directors of Likhaan. Hidalgo is now director of the UP Press.

The book is available at the UP University Book Store and will soon be available in all leading bookstores. Call 925-3244.

Provincial poets dominate 3rd week of text poetry contest

THREE entries from the provinces have won in the Textanaga Poetry Writing Contest, now on its third week.

Jonathan Bruzo (of San Jose, Camarines Sur) is the Textanagista ng Linggo, sharing the title with Jarvis Buluran (of Norzagaray, Bulacan).

The consolation prizes went to Lorelei Chua (of Puerto Princesa, Palawan), Rita Jessica S. Arda, Dennis Formadero, Anthony Bendo, Vanessa A. Austral and Jon Mallorca.

Buluran, a 24-year-old businessman, won consolation prize last week.

"His case proves that persistence and patience to master the demands of this poetic form can pay off," said Virgilio S. Almario, chair of the board of judges.

The main prize winners will receive P2,500 each while the rest get P1,000 each. Here are the winning entries:

'Wag kang magpaumanhin,
Kung sunog ang sinaing,
Mas karima-rimarim
Ang malata mong tingin.
—J. Bruzo

Binalot kong pagkain
Sa berdeng dahong saging.
Itlog, kanin at daeng,
Sa iyo'y ihahain.
—J. Buluran

Manggang hinog sa pilit,
Sapatos na kay sikip,
Pag-ibig na pinilit,
Masamang panaginip.
—R. Jessica S. Arda,

No virus ang computer
Puro sunshine ang weather
Parang life sa death after
Pag tayo ay together.
—D. Formadero

Di makuha sa dasal,
O sa santong paspasan,
Buhok ay nanakawan,
At ika'y pakukulam.
—A. Bendo

Dinatnan kong tahimik
Ang lawa at namingwit;
Nasilip ka sa langit,
Hinagkan ko ang tubig.
—L. Chua

Sobrang mahal ang perlas!
Mahal na rin ang rosas!
Pag-ibig kong pangahas,
Hahantong ba sa rehas?
—V. Austral

Mag-rally man sa Edsa,
Baha man sa España,
Kahit ma-traffic ka pa,
Hihintayin pa rin kita.
—J.Mallorca

The Textanaga is jointly sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Filipinas Institute of Translation, Inc., Unyon ng mga Manunulat ng Pilipinas, and the UP Institute of Creative Writing.

Participants to the fourth week phase can send entries with their names and addresses from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 0919-3175708 and/or 0916-7302695. Call 922-1830.

Former child prodigies perform with MCO

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank, in cooperation with 98.7 DZFE, present Nena del Rosario Villanueva, pianist, and Oscar Yatco, violinist, in a concert on Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower I, corner Makati Avenue and H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City.

The concert was inspired by the discovery of a photo with the young musicians sitting on Dr. Herbert Zipper's lap. Both Villanueva and Yatco were considered child prodigies and made their professional debuts at the same time.

The concert repertoire will include pieces by Beethoven, Bach, Chopin and Franck.

Tickets are priced at P300 each. A 50-percent discount is given to students and faculty, and 20 percent to senior citizens.

Call 818-1403, 813-3849 and 840-7000 locals 2630 and 2258.

NENA del Rosario-Villanueva

OSCAR Yatco

Supreme Broadway musical now in Manila

'Dreamgirls' relives the supreme days of Diana Ross and the Supremes

By Leah Salterio

THERE'S no stopping Atlantis Productions from mounting theater musicals, despite the rising dollar that makes royalty payments more difficult. The four-year-old theater company led by director Bobby Garcia is undaunted, especially in the coming year when it has lined up bigger productions.

On the heels of the success of its recent musical, "The Rocky Horror Show," Atlantis has announced the dates for its next offering, "Dreamgirls," touted as the outfit's biggest production to date.

With music by Henry Krieger and book and lyrics by Tim Eyen, "Dreamgirls" took Broadway by storm and went on to win six Tony awards.

From the musical came many hit songs like "We Are Family," "And I Am Telling You" and "I Am Changing."

"It is the biggest that Atlantis has ever produced in four years," says Garcia of "Dreamgirls."

The musical will have 26 cast members and an 18-piece orchestra, with Gerard Salonga as musical director. He will work on the original Broadway arrangements of the musical.

"When we decided to do 'Dreamgirls,' Gerard was the first one I approached to work as musical director," Garcia says.

Even before "The Rocky Horror Show" started its run, Atlantis already auditioned for the "Dreamgirls" cast.

Salonga's job started during auditions, where he worked with Garcia in selecting the cast.

"Bobby and I had codes on who to get, if we should stop the one who's auditioning, or if we didn't like the performer," says Salonga.

"Dreamgirls" is Salonga's second theater production where he is working as musical director. The first was Neil Simon's "They're Playing Our Song," which starred his sister Lea at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

When he was still a student at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Salonga led an orchestra for the Repertory Philippines production, "Carousel," in 1996.

The one-day "Dreamgirls" auditions saw more than 80 talents, who tried their luck to be part of the cast.

"After the whole-day auditions, we were already able to cast, from the lead roles to ensemble," Garcia says.

BOBBY Garcia

GERARD Salonga

Sold-out

"Dreamgirls" had a sold-out concert on Broadway last year, headlined by stage luminaries Lillias White, Audra McDonald and Heather Headley.

"Dreamgirls" will be presented at Onstage in Greenbelt (Makati City), a venue which Atlantis will use for the first time.

"Onstage is a challenge for us because it's the biggest theater we're going to work in," Garcia says. "RCBC has a capacity of 400 and GSIS can seat 600. But Onstage is twice as big as RCBC. [As director] I also haven't handled a show at Onstage."

Completing the "Dreamgirls" creative team are choreographer Andy Alviz, lighting designer Gerry Fernandez and costume designer Rajo Laurel.

Loosely based on the lives of Diana Ross and The Supremes, "Dreamgirls" tells the inspiring story of three female singers trying to make their dreams come true, as the musical landscape changes from rhythm and blues to disco.

Bituin Escalante and Ana Fegi play the roles of dueling divas Effie Melody White and Deena Jones, two of the most coveted female roles in musical theater. Their roles were made famous on Broadway by Jennifer Holliday and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Both Escalante and Fegi were recently seen on "The Rocky Horror Show" as Columbia and Magenta, respectively. Also starring in "Dreamgirls" are Lana Jalosjos and Text Ordoñez. The musical runs March 14-April 5.

After "Dreamgirls," Atlantis has other big projects. The company will also stage the much talked-about musical "Urinetown," which remains a hot ticket on Broadway up to this day. Book and lyrics are by Greg Kotis, with music by Mark Hollman.

Set in a Gotham-like city overwrought by ecological disaster, "Urinetown" is a tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time when water is worth its every weight in gold.

The Philippine premiere of "Urinetown" will star "Rent" cast member JM Rodriguez in the lead as Bobby Strong. It will open in September.

Then there is the "Rent" concert also at Onstage, a presentation of the wonderful and inspiring music and message of the late Jonathan Larson, who wrote the Broadway musical.

ANA Fegi and Bituin Escalante play the roles of dueling divas Deena Jones and Effie Melody White on "Dreamgirls."

EXCELSIOR SPA
his & hers

Soothing massage at your convenience...

Enjoy 20% Off on Aromatherapy
Clear your mind and body with this powerful aromatic herbal massage.
Herbal Salt Body Scrub
Whole body exfoliation to release toxins and develop smooth, flawless, glowing skin.
and Fangotherapy
Detoxify and exfoliate your body with this combination of salt scrub and sea mud treatment.

2/F 483 Del Monte Ave.
San Francisco Del Monte, Q.C.
Tel.: 4127285 or 90

G/F Atherton Place
17 Tomas Morato cor.
Roces Ave., Q.C.
Tel.: 4112938 / 4106639

2/F CT Centre Bldg.
520 Shaw Blvd
Mandaluyong City
Tel: 7180533 / 7183154

2/F Mezzanine, Fox Square
53 Connecticut St.
Greenhills, San Juan
Tel.: 7446340

JDA Bldg.
A.B. Fernandez Ave.
Dagupan City
Tel. 075-5153978

Unit 19 & 20, Body Place
3rd Level Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas Center, Q. C.
Tel.: 6311796 / 6319416

*special offer until March 31, 2003

Special Treatments
Aromatherapy Massage Lymphatic Drainage Massage
Herbal Salt Body Scrub Thalassotherapy Fangotherapy
Other Package Treatments available

Interested Franchisees welcome - Call 718-3154 / 0917-6311688

Arts Month in Bel-Air Makati

BEL-AIR Village celebrated National Arts Month on Feb. 16 with a concert at Bel-Air Park featuring light classics and Filipino folk tunes performed by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Led by PPO resident conductor Ruggero Barbieri, PPO provided accompaniment to soprano Rachelle Gerodias and tenor Nolyn Cabahug.

The outdoor concert was organized by the Women of Bel-Air, with the Cultural Committee of Barangay Bel-Air under the chairmanship of Victor Gomez Jr. It was part of the month-long arts festivities all over the country sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and Arts.

The PPO played Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" and Rossini's "William Tell." It also played Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony.

The concert ended with a rousing performance of Handel's festive "Hallelujah Chorus" from his oratorio "Messiah." Performing the choral classic was an 87-voice choir composed of the Union Church Choir, Musica Sacra, Pangkat Maharlika and the Bel-Air Male Choir made up of village security and maintenance employees.

Pianist Carminda del Leon-Regala, a founding member of the Women of Bel-Air, rehearsed the Union Church Choir, which took part in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

The Women of Bel-Air, an organization of more than a hundred residents, organized the event with the NCCA and the Outreach Program of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The PPO accompanied lyric soprano Gerodias, who sang excerpts from Puccini's "La Boheme," Strauss' "Die Fledermaus," "Quando Men Vo" from Puccini's "La Boheme," and Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig."

Cabahug sang "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turando,t" and "Vesti la Giubba," from Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci," among other pieces.

This project was also sponsored by Barangay Bel-Air under barangay captain Nene Lichauco and the Bel-Air Village Association led by Teddy Regala.

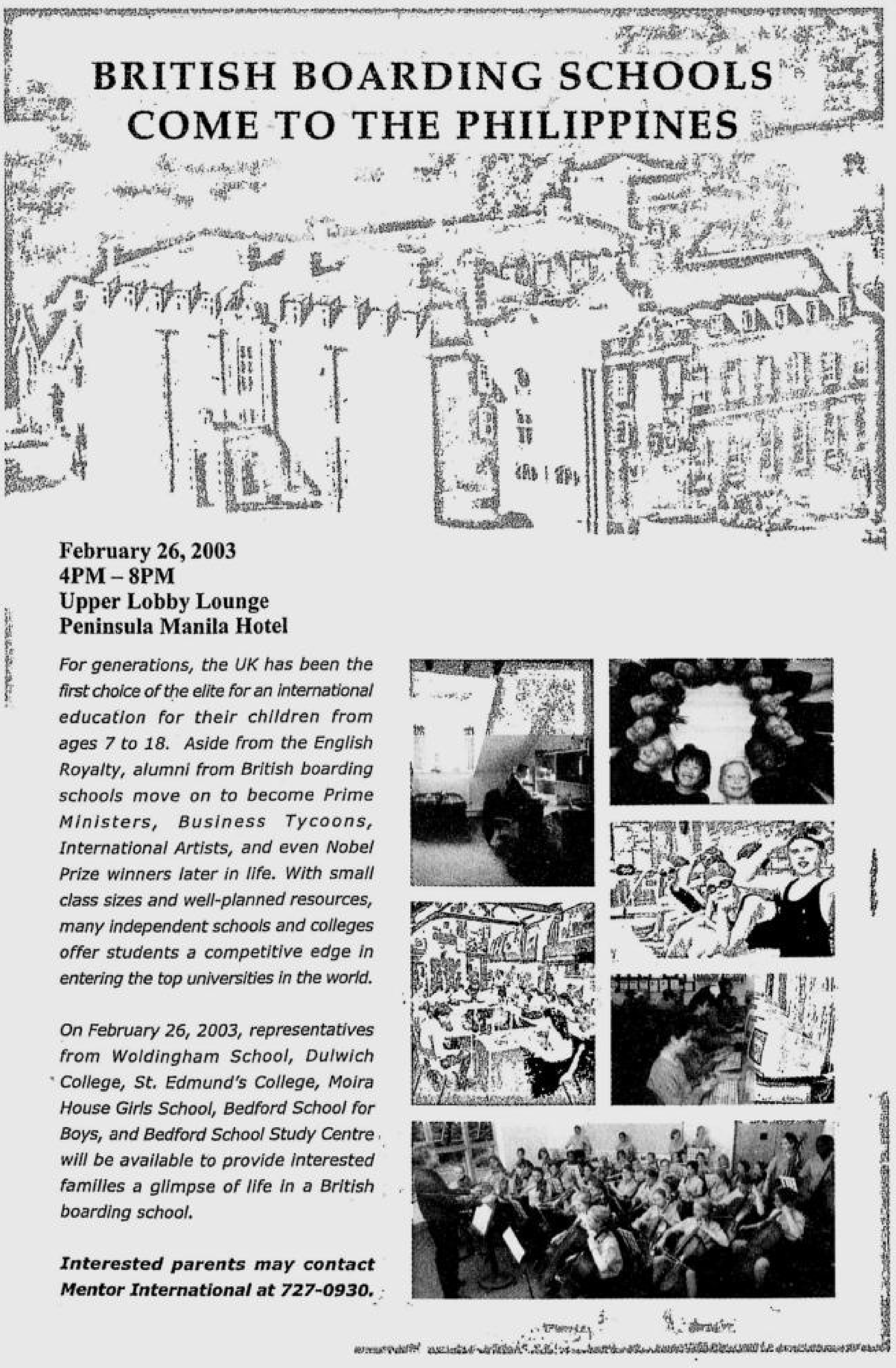
A SCENE from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

St. Scho pupils in Shakespearean play

GRADE 6 students of St. Scholastica's College, under the guidance of Prof. Naty Crame-Rogers, a Cultural Center of the Philippines Gawad Awardee, will stage again William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The play is a romantic comedy about lovers thwarted by the injustices of love and law.

Performances will be at St. Scholastica's Peace Garden Theater, Feb. 26-28. Matinee and gala shows are at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively. Call 524-7686 to -89 local 470 or 471.


BRITISH BOARDING SCHOOLS COME TO THE PHILIPPINES

February 26, 2003
4PM – 8PM
Upper Lobby Lounge
Peninsula Manila Hotel

For generations, the UK has been the first choice of the elite for an international education for their children from ages 7 to 18. Aside from the English Royalty, alumni from British boarding schools move on to become Prime Ministers, Business Tycoons, International Artists, and even Nobel Prize winners later in life. With small class sizes and well-planned resources, many independent schools and colleges offer students a competitive edge in entering the top universities in the world.

On February 26, 2003, representatives from Woldingham School, Dulwich College, St. Edmund's College, Moira House Girls School, Bedford School for Boys, and Bedford School Study Centre will be available to provide interested families a glimpse of life in a British boarding school.

Interested parents may contact Mentor International at 727-0930.

www.efficientlighting.net
email: eli@ph.soluziona.com
Siguradong ka sa Quality basta may ELI Seal ang CFL mo
soluziona
ELI
IFC/GEF Efficient Lighting Initiative

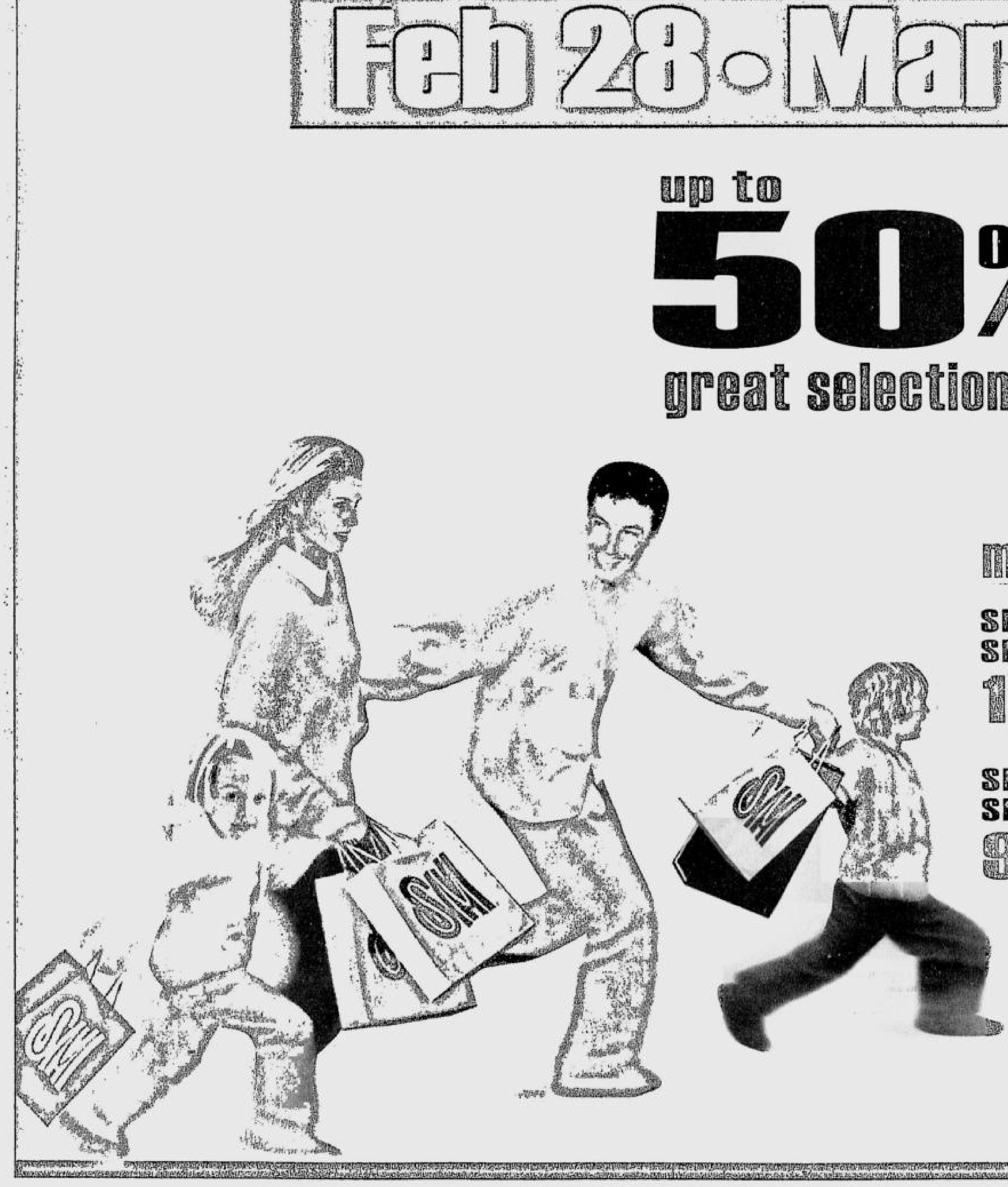
SM City FAIRVIEW | SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS | SM City PAMPANGA | SM City CEBU

sale

3 days only

Feb 28 • Mar 1 • 2

up to
50% off
great selections mallwide



mall hours

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SM SOUTHMALL
10am - 10pm

SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY CEBU
9am - 10pm

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0722 Series of 2003

38th ANVIL AWARDS

Public Relations Society of the Philippines

MESSAGES

MY WARMEST felicitation to the men and women of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) on the occasion of your 38th Anvil Awards.

For over 30 years now, the Anvil Awards has become a much-awaited annual event that recognizes outstanding public relations programs implemented by the private and public sectors. I hope this year's event will help inspire the awardees to further utilize PR towards raising social awareness and responsibility among our people.

I call on all of you to continue your commitment to sustainable development in the field of PR. Your efforts to come up with more useful and imaginative campaigns that benefit our marginalized countrymen will surely go along way towards rebuilding our nation.

I congratulate the winners and participants of this year's competition. They have immensely contributed to the improvement of the public relations profession in the country and the development of the media as a tool for sustained progress.

Let us all work together in uniting our nation, developing our nation. Developing our economy and building a strong Republic.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

CONGRATULATIONS to the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) on its 38th Anvil Awards. This is another milestone in the Public Relations tradition that consolidates Public Relations programs and tools crafted and implemented by practitioners from all over the country.

The PRSP gives recognition to the public relations programs and projects implemented by the private and government sectors, non-government and civic organizations that promote concern for the community, making people aware on how to improve and uplift lives.

The awards also provide a powerful venue for stimulating the Filipino's creative vision and directing these activities that perform distinct service for the country.

I, therefore, commend the Public Relations Society of the Philippines and all those involved in the Anvil Awards for their commitment to human progress. I also congratulate at awardees, as well as all those who participated in this year's ANVIL awards.

HERNANI A. BRAGANZA
Press Secretary

The Anvil

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) celebrates this year the 38th Anvil Awards, an annual event which has become a robust institution after more than three decades of colorful existence.

Over the years, the Anvil has gained tremendous prestige that it is now dubbed the "Oscar" of the local public relations practice. The quality of the winning entries, the standards for selection, the reputation of the board of judges, and the development and growth of PR, both as a profession and in practice are among the major factors that led to its acceptance and popularity.

The competition is conducted annually by the PRSP to give recognition to outstanding public relations programs or projects that are clearly identified with public interest and have a lasting impact and value. It also cites exemplary communication tools that effectively implement PR programs.

It is awarded by a multisectoral jury which follow stringent norms and process of selection. There is no cash award, but it is much coveted and no award is given unless the standards are met.

There are two main categories: Institutional / Corporate PR Programs and Tools of Public Relations. Under these are several sub-categories by which entries are classified and judged.

There are also four award categories, namely: The Anvil Award of Merit, The Anvil Awards of Excellence, The Bronze Anvil Award, and The Grand Anvil Award.

38th ANVIL AWARDS WINNERS

Grand Anvil Award
"Read to Lead: A Reading Advocacy Campaign of Visine" - (Pfizer, Inc.)

INSTITUTIONAL & CORPORATE PR PROGRAMS

Award of Excellence
1.) "Ligtas ba ang LPG tank mo?"- (LPG Industry Association)
2.) "Project BEACON: Barangay Electrification Assistance to the Countryside" - (Mirant Philippines Corporation)
3.) "Kilusan Ligtas Malaria" - (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. / Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. / Provincial Government of Palawan)
4.) "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer" - (Avon Cosmetics, Inc.)
5.) "Greening the supply chain program" - (Nestle Philippines, Inc.)
6.) "Mission: P.E.T" - (Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc.)
7.) "Text Usok" - (ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.)
8.) "Tulung-Tulong sa Tullahan" - (San Miguel Corporation / ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan / DPWH / Malabon & Valenzuela LGUs)
9.) "Intel Philippine Science Fair" - (Intel Philippines / Agatep Associates, Inc.)
10.) "Sustainable Development in Action" - (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. as operator of SC38, its partners Texaco Philippines & PNOC - Exploration Corporation under the supervision of the Department of Energy)
11.) "SMC Newsbreak Communication Program" - (San Miguel Corpration)
12.) "Read to Lead: A reading advocacy campaign of Visine" - (Pfizer, Inc.)

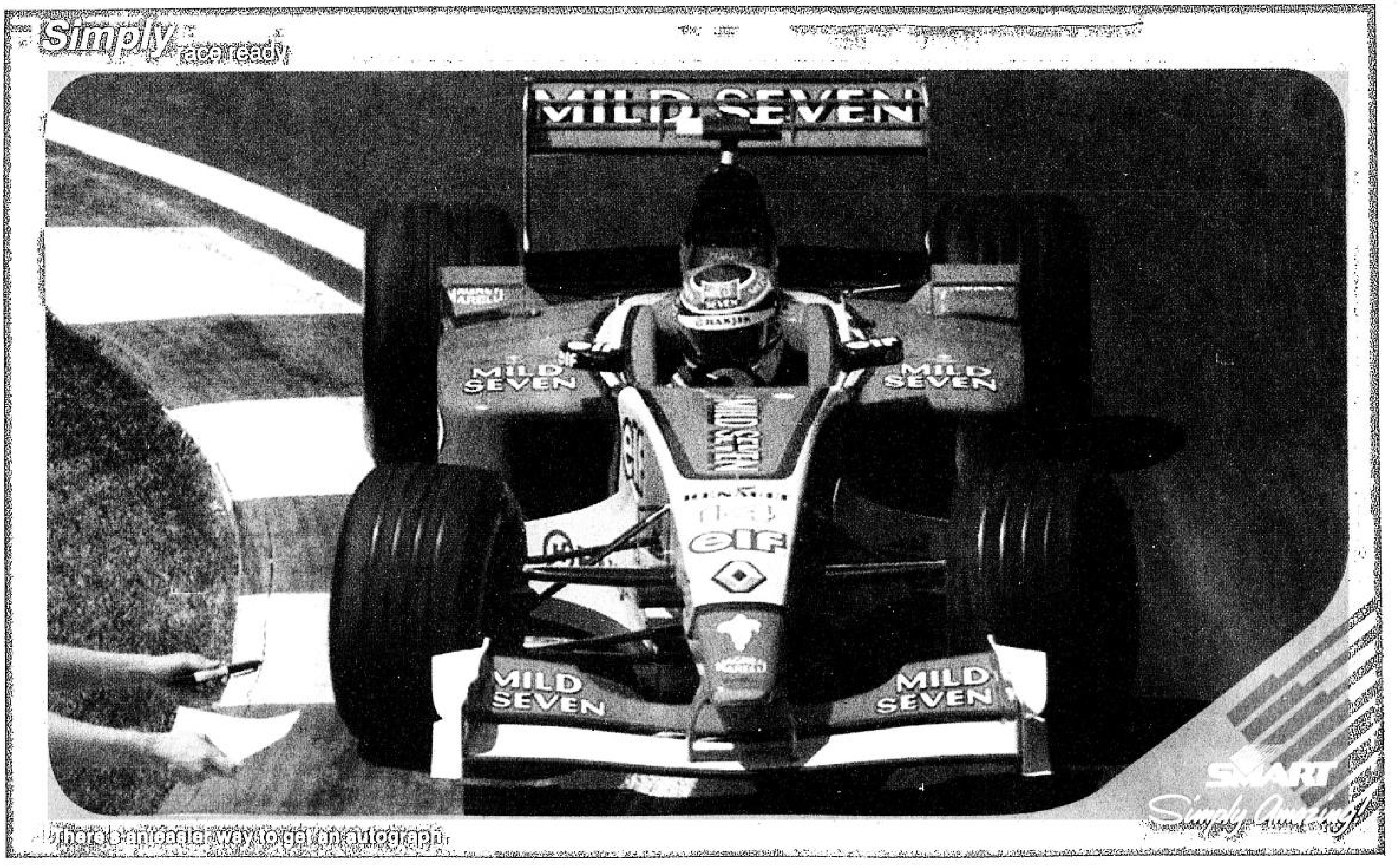
Award of Merit
1.) "The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) 2002" - (Metrobank Foundation, Inc.)
2.) "Leaders for Health Project" - (Pfizer, Inc. / DOH/Ateneo Graduate School of Business)
3.) "Youth Smoking Prevention Program Launching" - (Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing, Inc, / Hemisphere Leo Burnett)
4.) "22nd National Super Quiz Bee" - (Quiz Bee Foundation)
5.) "Sulong Edukasyon!" - (Bato Balani Foundation, Inc.)
6.) "DBI Community Development Program" - (Distelliria Bago Inc.)
7.) "7th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards" - (Globe Telecom, Inc.)
8.) "Globe Telecom "SPEAK" Advertising Campaign" - (Globe Telecom, Inc.)
9.) "Summer Creative & Values Formation Workshops" - (Development Bank of the Philippines)
10.) "KAPUSO: Internal Launch" - (GMA Network, Inc.)
11.) "Globe Telecom: Cebu Press Freedom Week 2002" - (Globe Telecom, Inc.)

Bronze Anvil Award
1.) "The Changing Face of the Filipino" - Infinit - 1 Communications Services, Inc.
2.) "Fueling Dreams Mini Documentaries" (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.)

TOOLS OF PR

Award of Excellence
1.) "Ayala Group of Companies-Unified Annual Reports" (Ayala Group of Companies)
2.) "DLSU System President's Report" - (De La Salle University - Manila)
3.) "Ayala Group of Companies Newsletter - Ayala Now" - (Ayala Group of Companies)
4.) "Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project" - (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.)
5.) "Petron 2002 Wall Calendar" - (Petron Corporation)
6.) "The Changing Face of the Filipino" - (Salesian Society of Don Bosco & Infinit - 1 Communications Services, Inc.
7.) "ArtPetron II Collaterals" - (Petron Corporation)
8.) "Only Selfless Love" - (Columbia International Food Products, Inc.)
9.) "Fueling Dreams mini Documentaries" - (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.)

Award of Merit
1.) "Tecknilink Customer Magazine" - (Lufthansa Tecknik Philippines)
2.) "The Globe Spectrum" - (Globe Telecom, Inc.)
3.) "IBM Business Continuity & Recovery Service (RCRS)" - (IBM Philippines / Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide)
4.) "ActNow Program Launch Invite" - (Aventis Pharma, Inc. / Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide)
5.) "SMPP 2002 Desk Calendar.Lasting Bonds:Caring Beyond the Package" - (San Miguel Packaging Products)
6.) "2002 SMC Corporate Calendar" - (San Miguel Corporation)
7.) "The Geothermal Story" Calendar - (Philippine Geothermal, Inc,)
8.) "Bright Minds Read" - (DDB Philippines)
9.) "Ford Halloween Poster" - (Ford Group Philippines, Inc.)
10.) "Inspiration and Images" - (SGV Foundation, Inc. / Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Foundation, Inc.)
11.) "The GMA Kapuso Internal Video Presentation" (GMA Network, Inc.)
12.) "The Philippines: Beauty in Diversity" - (Nestle Philippines, Inc.)
13.) "Celebrating Malampaya Commemorative Video Album" - (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.)
14.) "DLSU-Manila Admissions Video" - (De La Salle University - Manila)
15.) "Helping Hands to Build Better Lives" - (Metrobank Foundation, Inc.)
16.) "Nestle in the Philippines" - (Nestle Philippines, Inc.)



Calling all speed freaks! Answer trivia questions about the Mild Seven F1 Team correctly for the chance to win authentic Mild Seven F1 shirts or autographed Mild Seven F1 items.

M7F1
290
1. To play the Mild Seven F1 Trivia Game type, M7F1.
2. Send to 290.
3. The first multiple-choice trivia question will be sent.
4. To answer, type M7F1REG <answer> <name> <address> <bday> and send to 290 (For initial entry only.)

To get more regular F1 updates, type **M7F1 NEWS** and send to **290.**

To download an operator logo, type **MLOGO <keyword>** and send to **290.**
alonsol1 alonsol2 carl trullil1 trullil2

To download a picture message, type **MPIC <keyword>** and send to **290.**
ahelmetp alonsop1 alonsop2 carp carp2 carp3 f1p1 f1p2 swheelp thelmetp trullip1 trullip2

To download MMS wallpaper*, type **MMS <keyword>** and send to **290.**
ahelmet alonso car1 car2 car3 car4 car5 M7 thelmet trulli

*Exclusively for MMS capable handsets. P2.50 will be charged for every text message sent to 290. P15.00 will be charged per download of operator logos, picture messages and MMS wallpaper. Promo duration: February 12 to March 8. See flyers for details.

In cooperation with MILD SEVEN RENAULT F1 Team
Powered by SMART mms

This promo is open to Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers at least 18 years old, with Text Messaging Service. For questions or concerns, you may call the SMART hotline at 888 1111, e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0624, series of 2003

WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

IN SUPPORT OF MARKETING

Read to lead: A Reading Advocacy Campaign

Pfizer, Inc.

Objectives

RECOGNIZING the compelling need to promote reading and revive the reading habit among the young Filipinos, Visine, one of the products of the Consumer Health Division of Pfizer Philippines, decided to sponsor and undertake a reading advocacy campaign called Read to Lead. The program aims to create greater awareness of the benefits and importance of reading, and thus convince young people to read more and help prepare them to assume leadership roles in the country in the future. The program is targeted toward young adults, from high school students to working professionals as well as for the general public.

Methods

Read to Lead utilized several methods to launch and maintain the campaign. Partnerships, endorsements, advertisements, publicity, mall and store events, product sampling, donations, writing and photo contests, promotions, distribution of posters, leaflets, and bookmarks.

The first step was for Visine to get as partners and supporters in the program organizations with the same interest in promoting reading such as National Book Store and its sister company Powerbooks. Visine was also able to get the participation of Mercury Drug Store and Watsons in the campaign. It also subsequently sought and received the endorsements of the Reading Association of the Philippines and the Eye Health and Safety Foundation.

They were able to get as endorsers of the reading campaign three young celebrities who serve as role models of the youth, namely Youth Commissioner & Breakfast Show host Bam Aquino, model-writer Lexi Schulze and basketball star and philanthropist Vince Hizon. These endorsers all excel in their respective fields and all love to read and have benefited from their readings.

In support of the program, National Book Store and Powerbooks came up with monthly Read to Lead recommended titles, which come with a free Visine for every copy purchased. Moreover, for every Php 800.00 worth of books purchased at Powerbooks, a customer is entitled to a raffle draw with attractive prizes at stake.

In the case of Mercury Drug and Watsons, sales promotions were conducted where if one buys Visine at the store, the buyer receives a free giveaway from National Book Store or from Watsons stores.

A major component of the campaign is a monthly on-the-ground event called the "Read to Lead ReadShow" which have been held in major shopping malls in the Metro Manila Area. During such ReadShows, prominent personalities who have attained leadership positions in the government and the private sector as well as selected entertainers who are known to be readers are invited to be interviewed in TV talk show format by Aquino and Schulze.

Students from public high schools close to the malls are invited to serve as the audience for the ReadShows.

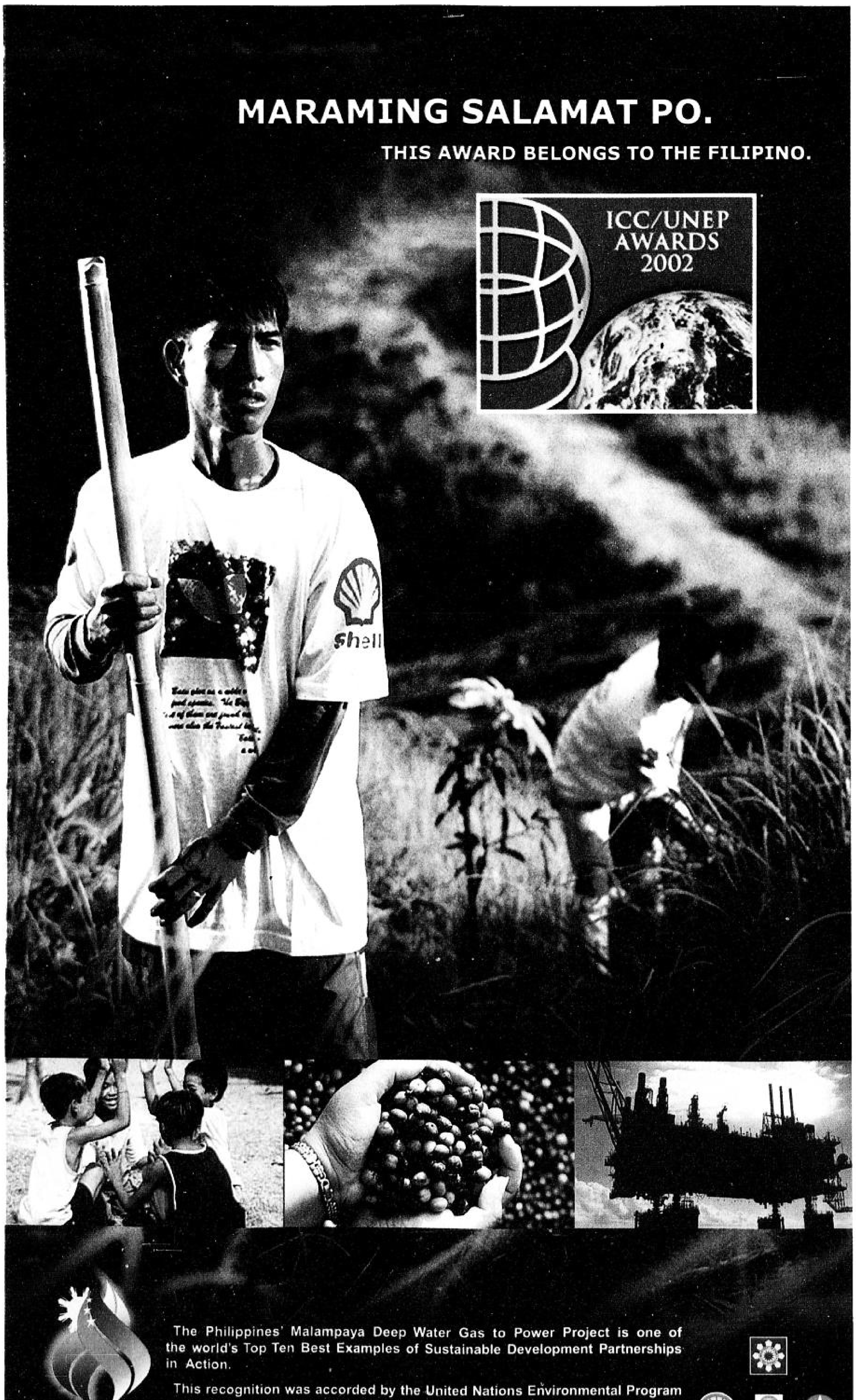
To broaden the scope and impact of the campaign, Visine, National Book Store and Powerbooks also partnered with two of the country's leading newspapers, the Manila Bulletin and Philippine Daily Inquirer, in running contests that promote reading. In the case of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, it is a photo contest dubbed "Look Who's Reading" asking people to submit a photo of a subject reading in an unusual setting. The Manila Bulletin, on the other hand, launched an essay-writing contest entitled "Why Read?"

Results

The program has received a lot of favorable comments from government leaders such as Dept. of Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as well as heads and officers of various companies, schools, NGOs, civic groups and ordinary citizens and men in the street.

Through the donation of books to various public schools, Read to Lead has been instrumental in the promotion of reading in schools. The posters distributed to schools were equally helpful in reminding and inspiring the students to read more.

Because of all the exposure gained through the campaign, Pfizer's image as a responsible corporate citizen has undoubtedly been enhanced as shown by the favorable comments from media and from other sectors. Marketing wise, sales of Visine have reached record highs in the months since the campaign was launched and implemented. In fact, Pfizer and Visine have recognized the impact and effectiveness of the campaign that they have decided to extend the program to next year and to do ReadShows outside Metro Manila in Luzon and even possibly in the Visayas and Mindanao.



The Philippines' Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project is one of the world's Top Ten Best Examples of Sustainable Development Partnerships in Action.

This recognition was accorded by the United Nations Environmental Program and the International Chamber of Commerce at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa on August 31, 2002.

MESSAGES

IN BEHALF of the board of jurors, our congratulations go to the men and women whose works have been proclaimed worthy of the Anvil.

More than a manifestation of their creative genius, they serve as a fitting recognition to our institutions' continuing efforts to do their share in nation building and development.

Through their works, corporate social responsibility has become more than just a buzzword and a concept in mind, but are now concrete examples of goodwill.

Their positive impact on the society in terms of uplifting the mind and living conditions of the Filipino people has made it doubly difficult for the jurors to select the best works for the 38th Anvil Awards.

Allow us to thank the Public Relations Society of the Philippines and its awards committee for giving us the opportunity to look into your industry and making us understand the relevance of the public relations field.

It was truly both a challenging and rewarding learning experience for all of us in the board.

Again, congratulations to all the winners and organizers of this event. May God continue to bless us all:

Lilia R. Bautista
LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairman
Board of Jurors
38th Anvil Awards

IT IS with distinct honor that we present today the winners of the 38th Anvil Awards.

They are undoubtedly the best of the best in the public relations industry, having persevered doubly harder and more creatively not only to promote goodwill for their company but more importantly to assist the various publics they serve.

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines is proud to note that the annual Anvil Awards remain to be the much-coveted award of the industry 38 years after it was begun.

For this year, PRSP received a total of 116 nominations from various profit and non-profit organizations, truly a manifestation that good works continue to abound despite the challenges that are before us.

As we look back to the year that was, we thank the Almighty God for all the blessings that He has showered upon us and our organization. We look forward to a more meaningful year for the PRSP in its continuing efforts to uplift public relations standards and practices in the country.

To the winners of the 38th Anvil Awards, our warmest congratulations for a job very well done.

WINSTON A. MARBELLA, APR
President
Public Relations Society of the Philippines

2002 continued to be a year of challenges in the increasingly growing complex world of public relations practitioners.

More and more, our stakeholders demanded excellence in the way we work. We were no longer judged by the quality of programs and tools that we delivered, but also by their impact on the world we live in. It was not enough anymore to communicate; we had to concretize this by actions that would radically enhance reputation.

All these were also the challenges that the 38th Anvil Awards faced. The "Oscars" of public relations, while still about excellence in doing programs and communicating them, had also demanded relevance in delivering value to its different publics.

Thus, by celebrating the best programs and communication tools that contribute the most impact on the lives of Filipinos and the country, the Anvil Awards continues with its tradition to deliver excellence in public relations work.

I wish to thank the Board of Jurors, the PRSP board, the members of the Anvil Awards committee and you my fellow public relations practitioners for keeping faith in the integrity and prestige in the Awards.

To all the winners, let us all wish them Godspeed as they continue with their noble works.

MA. VICTORIA CHUPUNGO MEDINA
Chair, 38th Anvil Awards and
PRSP Internal Vice President

Fueling Dreams - Mini Documentaries

Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.

Introduction

THIS IS a Public Relations tool developed by Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) to help the Malampaya Deep Water to Gas Project gain local and global recognition and acceptance, particularly in the areas where it operates. From the early stages to its current state of operations, SPEX has embarked on programs that incorporate the principle of sustainable development (SD)—a strategy that teaches communities to use resources efficiently, create efficient infrastructures, protect and enhance quality of life, and create new businesses to strengthen economies.

Within this PR tool, SPEX has compiled video documentaries featuring three successful sustainable development programs undertaken jointly by SPEX and Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI) in Palawan that dramatizes the effects on the lives of the people where SPEX operates. These mini documentaries are as follows:

- Kilusan Ligtas Malaria/KLM (Movement Against Malaria). Started in 1999, this province-wide effort to help eradicate malaria has saved thousands of lives from the deadly disease that has plagued the province for many generations. Shot in its entirety in the province of Palawan, the audience will follow a Pilipinas Shell Foundation community organizer as she undertakes her duties and share her passion in her mission to heal the residents of Palawan.
- Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura/SAKA (Agricultural Skills Training Program) Started in 1985, The SAKA program is a one-year agriculture skills program that trains out-of-school youths on an earn-while-you-learn basis. The skills being taught include farm productivity, preparation of farm plans and business plans and hands-on marketing. The program is being run in Pampanga, Cavite and Palawan. In this mini-documentary, Jessie Abrogar, an outstanding SAKA graduate of 2000, talks about how becoming a scholar has dramatically changed his life and his family.
- Integrated Farming Bio-System/IFBS. Agricultural extension workers conduct a two-week agricultural skills upgrading program called the Integrated Farming Bio-Systems for long-time farmers in Palawan and Mindoro. This is designed to improve sustainable agricultural practices through the use of inexpensive microbial-based fertilizer technology. The main beneficiaries are small, marginalized farmers who possess a few hectares of land. Follow one farmer's success story on how his land became a model IFBS farm.

Objectives

- To create an effective PR communications tool to promote and increase awareness on SPEX's successful selected sustainable development programs for the communities.
- To cultivate public appreciation of sustainable development programs that aim for Filipino's greater economic, social and environmental security.
- To provide a micro perspective of how SPEX's programs with PSFI for communities and individuals have benefited their welfare.
- To project SPEX as a global responsible corporate citizen.

Methods

In order to effectively communicate the programs of sustainable development and its long-term benefits, SPEX commissioned a highly-professional team specialized in audio-video production to come up with a well-produced, effective PR tool that is very convenient to use and can be easily distributed to its target publics.

These target publics include the general public who are the beneficiaries of the Malampaya Project's natural gas; the legislators, especially those from the energy sector, from whom SPEX would rely for support; the NGOs who strongly support social and environmental issues; the national leadership who would feel proud embarking on a project that ensured the public's economic, social and environment security; and the media.

1. The production team shot the documentaries in Palawan. In order to preserve the video and sound quality for easy viewing, the documentaries were transferred to CDs and formatted to either play in a VCD player or PC.
2. The mini-documentaries were aired over Palawan t.v. networks 3 times a week for a period of 2 months.
3. The VCD album is currently being used as a tool to further spread the word about sustainable development and corporate social responsibility. It currently serves as a give-away item with the Malampaya brochure on occasions such as public speaking engagements, exhibits, sustainable development tours, etc.

Results

We have achieved all our PR objectives using this PR tool. Because of its visually strong video and crisp audio presentation, as well as its two-month exposure on TV, the documentaries received strong public appreciation especially from the impacted communities wherein residents who saw it on TV sent letters of appreciation to SPEX.

Likewise, an increase in the appreciation of the programs notably increased amongst the Palawenos themselves, who previously have heard about the programs but had no in-depth knowledge nor insight of how the programs were run and how it has benefited people and saved lives.

SPEX's sustainable development efforts gained international recognition when it won a coveted major international award during the recent Johannesburg summit. The "World Summit Business Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships" was given by officials from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It was named among the top ten most successful sustainable development programs implemented worldwide and the first one in Asia to receive the prestigious award.

The Changing Face of the Filipino

Salesian Society of Don Bosco & Infinit - I Communications Services, Inc.

THE CHANGING Face of the Filipino: A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines.

Objectives

Beyond merely celebrating the Salesians' Golden Jubilee in a meaningful manner, the coffee table book was designed:

- To stimulate serious reflection about how to address the issues relevant to the development of young Filipinos through concrete and innovative programs.
- To highlight the relevance of the Don Bosco System and the concept of servant leadership in the Philippine youth setting.

The book would in fact form part of a bigger youth initiative—a vehicle by which to communicate a new paradigm for looking at and listening to the youth.

Ultimately, the objective of the larger effort is to market the youth among decision-makers/opinion leaders—government, businessmen, educators—and networking with them toward proactive initiatives both for and with young people.

The Salesians recognized that support for the youth usually goes to the gifted, i.e. those who can help themselves. They wanted the book to point to fresh initiatives that can be developed to benefit and involve the marginalized sectors of the youth.

Methods

The book was envisioned to be both informational and inspirational—one that would tickle the mind and attract the eye. Based heavily on research and authoritative perspectives, it should serve as a practical—not technical—resource material that balances advocacy with a sense of youth empowerment. The book, in dwelling on issues, dreams, aspirations, lifestyles of the young, would build a story toward a vision for the youth. It would be written and designed in a manner befitting the youth: vibrant and dynamic—not staid, ponderous or pedantic.

The Salesians of Don Bosco collaborated with a professional editorial and production team assembled by Infinit-1 Communication Services. The co-publishers agreed to have two main sections for the book: "Five Decades of the Filipino Youth" and "Perspectives and Reflections".

The first part would trace the development of the youth against the changing national and global scene to help the reader understand the youth as a subculture within Philippine society and the second part would feature fresh reflective pieces on issues and concerns—from sex and drugs to technology and spirituality—profoundly affecting the youth.

The book would end with an essay that explains the significance of all these developments and views from the Salesian perspective.

Results

It is too early to assess the medium- and long-term impact of the book, but a youth advocacy success is clearly on the horizon. **The Changing Face of the Filipino** was launched on Sept. 10, 2002 at the Manila Polo Club in the presence of more than 200 guests from the religious, academic, business, government and diplomatic sectors. Since then, youth advocates in the public and private sectors and the media have welcomed the book with a warm reception.

Early sales have likewise been encouraging. With direct sales and bookstore consignments, the book is being marketed innovatively among corporations, legislators and national/local government officials by encouraging donations to public schools and libraries. This approach has yielded bulk sales to representatives of certain key markets. One national official has ordered 27 books, while a city mayor has donated 41 books to his city's public schools and a group of yuppies from various corporations yielded instant sales of 60 books. Donation of books to public schools in far flung areas such as Batanes and Aurora, Quezon were undertaken. Thus, plans are under way for the reprint of the book to reach a wider audience and to create a more informed awareness of the issues that have to be confronted to make the youth productive members of Philippine society.

Juan in wonderland

Children who have
literally been kept in the dark
can finally travel to faraway lands even at night
as Project BEACON (Barangay Electrification Assistance
for Countryside Development) completes the
electrification of 1,000 barangays nationwide.
It's the beginning of a new life for these Filipino children.
With electricity, they now have the power to change their
lives and join the mainstream of Philippine development.

PROJECT BEACON
The largest corporate social responsibility program ever carried out by a single private corporation in the country. The project, which is being implemented by Mirant Philippines Foundation, the social development arm of Mirant Philippines, supports the O-Ilaw Program of the Department of Energy.

MIRANT
Beyond Today, Beyond Energy

Pfizer Creates Partnerships for a Healthier Community through the Leaders for Health Project

Many problems plague the healthcare delivery system in the Philippines due to the fragmented way in which the different key players and the community think, feel and behave about health. Today, out of a population of close to 80 million people, 40% of Filipinos, especially those who live in far-flung areas have not seen a doctor in their lifetime.

A Holistic, Long-term Solution in Addressing Problems in Healthcare

Pfizer, in partnership with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business – Health Unit (AGSB) and the Department of Health (DOH), embarked on a long-term and holistic solution through the Leaders for Health Project (LHP). LHP aims to contribute towards the development of competent, professional and committed leaders who will provide strategic and effective leadership of the Philippine health sector at various levels. It seeks to change the mindset of people about health being not just the responsibility of a doctor but the broader community composed of other key stakeholders in health – the local government and the peoples' organizations.

For Pfizer, LHP was a way of applying and demonstrating its corporate values of Community and Leadership by providing concrete and sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by the Philippine healthcare sector.

Towards Building a Sustainable Health System

LHP builds on the initial successes of the Doctors To The Barrios Program (DTTB), where doctor volunteers are fielded to 5th or 6th class municipalities which are among the poorest areas which have remained doctorless. During their stay, the doctor volunteers would earn a Masters degree in Health Care Management from the AGSB. A separate but parallel track composed of Capacity Enhancement Workshops for mayors and local community leaders have also been developed that will provide them with the basic knowledge and skills necessary for building and strengthening a sustainable health system.

Other components of the project include the renovation of the DOH Doctor to the Barrios - Pfizer Training and Learning Center at the DOH Compound in Tayuman, Manila. The upgraded center was inaugurated in July 2002 and it now houses a virtual library and training facilities to give the doctors a venue to receive training, conduct research and communicate faster with various DOH offices.

With the framework in place, LHP got underway in July when volunteer doctors were deployed to the pilot sites in Camarines Sur, Western Samar, Biliran and Surigao del Norte. A "Salubungan" or symbolic coming together took place between the DOH, AGSB and Pfizer officials and the local government officials, the rural doctors and the constituents in two cities, - Surigao and Tacloban. The momentous event was attended by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Jr., Pfizer President and Country Manager Rey Gerardo Bacarro and AGSB Dean Alfredo Bengzon.

Shortly after, Capacity Enhancement Workshops were conducted for local government units in September in Cebu. In October, Orientation and Planning Workshops for Non-Government Organizations and People's Organizations were held in Siargao Island. More recently, integrated capacity enhancement workshops were conducted in Tacloban and Butuan City where strategic healthcare plans were mapped out for each municipality.

To date, the LHP has benefited 30 municipalities in four of the poorest provinces in the country — Surigao del Norte, Biliran, Western Samar and Camarines Sur. The volunteer doctors have been serving 50-80 people a day while receiving healthcare management skills and continuing medical education. Hundreds of local government officials and community leaders have participated in capacity enhancement workshops and orientation and planning workshops.

Generating Awareness and Support

To create awareness and support for the project among the general public, advertisements were placed in leading broadsheets. A special newsletter, Healthlink, was published to keep the project partners as well as government, media and relevant organizations abreast of developments.

Press releases were distributed on the milestones of the project. Pfizer also invited both print and TV media to the towns where LHP was being piloted to observe and interview key participants in the project. All these have resulted in LHP receiving extensive and positive exposure in the press, including front-page articles and favorable comments by several leading columnists.

Through the Leaders for Health Project, Pfizer was able to further strengthen its partnership with the DOH and its various agencies and regional offices, local government units as well as with various development-oriented NGOs.

The multi-million Leaders for Health Project was made possible through a peso-for-peso matching by Pfizer Foundation in New York.

Indeed, LHP was a big step forward in the Philippines in pursuing Pfizer's worldwide effort to create partnerships for a healthier world.

Leaders for Health Project

Pfizer
Life is our life's work

2002 Anvil Award of Merit

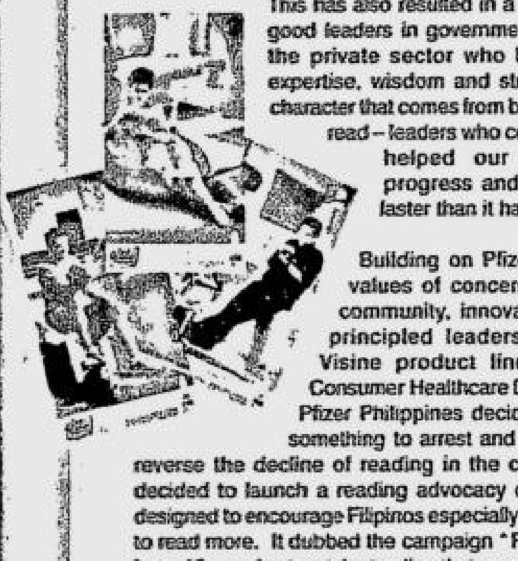
Visine's Read to Lead – A Reading Advocacy Campaign from Pfizer

Campaign Exhorts Young to Read More, Learn Much and Lead Country Well

There is no question that reading helps people gain knowledge, learn new skills, imbibe positive values and develop character that could help turn them into competent, well-rounded and morally upright leaders.

Unfortunately, recent studies show that Filipinos, especially the young, have been reading less these days. They would rather spend their time in trivial and unproductive pursuits like watching TV or movies, playing games on their computers, exchanging text messages on their cell phones, or going "malling" in one of Metro Manila's many shopping centers – doing anything but read.

Because of this, the younger Filipinos have become less literate, less able to communicate well verbally or in writing, and generally less capable than they would have been if they read more. This has also resulted in a dearth of good leaders in government and in the private sector who have the expertise, wisdom and strength of character that comes from being well-read – leaders who could have helped our country progress and prosper faster than it has.



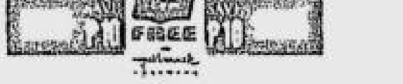
Building on Pfizer's core values of concern for the community, innovation and principled leadership, the Visine product line of the Consumer Healthcare Division of Pfizer Philippines decided to do something to arrest and hopefully reverse the decline of reading in the country. It decided to launch a reading advocacy campaign designed to encourage Filipinos especially the youth to read more. It dubbed the campaign "Read to Lead", a short, catchy tag line that says it all, that gets the message across on the value and benefits of reading as succinctly as possible.

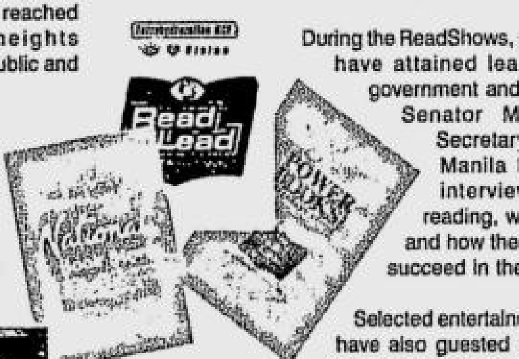
Partnerships – Key to a Successful Campaign

Visine called on its PR agency, Perceptions, its advertising agency, Jimenez D'Arcy, and its media buying agency, Mindshare, to put together and implement an integrated campaign involving getting the right endorsers and partners, organizing special promotions and contests with these partners, producing the campaign logo, print and TV ads and various collaterals for the campaign, and, at the core of it all, holding a monthly event promoting reading held at the country's leading shopping malls.

As endorsers of the campaign, three young celebrities were chosen— Youth Commissioner & Breakfast TV talk show host Bam Aquino, writer and model Lexi Schulze and basketball star and philanthropist Vince Hizon. The three proved to be ideal endorsers for the campaign because they serve as role models for the youth with their already significant accomplishments in their respective fields at so young an age, their wholesome yet "with-it" image and – a common denominator – their love for reading.

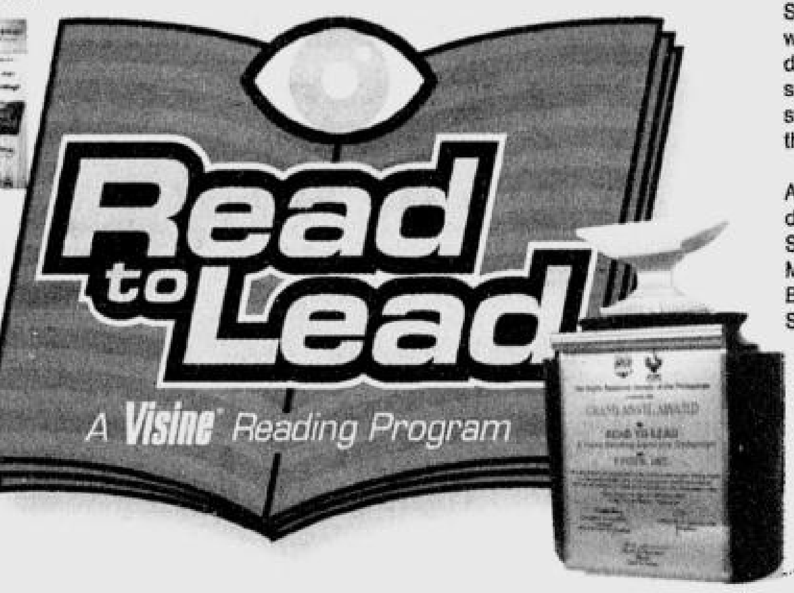
For partners, Visine, with the aid of Perceptions, was able to get the country's leading book store chain, National Book Store and its sister company, Powerbooks, as partners for the program. The two book retailers came up with monthly Read to Lead recommended titles. For every purchase of a book in the list, customers got a free Visine. Special shopping bags and bookmarks were also produced and distributed to customers with the Read to Lead logo imprinted on them. Because of the strong retail positioning of the two bookstore partners, exposure and awareness regarding the reading campaign reached unprecedented heights among the general public and key opinion leaders.





POWER BOOKS

In addition to partnering with the bookstores, Visine also conducted sales promotions at the outlets of Mercury Drug Store and Watsons, two of the country's leading drugstore chains. When one buys Visine at any of the two outlets, the buyer receives a free gift from National Book Store or a special Read to Lead bookmark.



2002 Grand Anvil Award

To broaden the scope and impact of the campaign, Visine also teamed up with two of the country's leading newspapers, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin, in running contests that promote reading. In the case of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and in cooperation with National Book Store, the contest was in the form of a photo contest dubbed "Look Who's Reading" where readers were asked to submit a photo of a subject reading in an unusual setting. The Manila Bulletin, on the other hand, with the support of Powerbooks this time, conducted an essay-writing contest entitled "Why Read?" on the benefits one derives from reading.

Providing a big boost to the campaign was getting the endorsement and support of the Reading Association of the Philippines, local affiliate of the International Reading Association, which promotes reading around the world. The Eye Health and Safety Foundation, an agency of the Department of Health mandated to promote proper eye care to facilitate better reading and learning, also gave its support to the program.

Reaching the Youth: ReadShows at the Malls

The campaign was formally launched in September 2002 with the publication of full-page, full-color print ads showing Aquino, Schulze and Hizon reading while taking a break from their usual activities. TV commercials were aired at the same time showing the three endorsers. Posters of the print ads were also produced and distributed to schools nationwide.

The ReadShows, which provided the focal point and anchor of the whole campaign, also started during that month with the first one being held at Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas Center. Done in TV talk show format and hosted by Aquino and Schulze with Hizon guesting from time to time, other ReadShows followed at Robinson's Place Manila, Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa and SM Megamall again at Ortigas Center.

During the ReadShows, prominent personalities who have attained leadership positions in the government and the private sector such as Senator Manny Villar, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza were interviewed on why they value reading, what their favorite books are and how these books have helped them succeed in their lives and careers.

Selected entertainers known to be avid readers have also guested in the ReadShows such as Jim Paredes of the Apo Hiking Society, Luisito Pascua also known as "Kuya Bodjie" of "Batibot" and "Epol/ Apple" TV kid shows fame, TV host and former beauty queen Zorah Andam and popular young radio deejay and band leader Mondo Castro and his band "The Pin-Up Girls". In the case of Castro and his band, they also performed numbers to entertain the audience.

To serve as audience for the ReadShows, students from public high schools near the shopping malls where the event was being held were invited, along with their teachers. Not only did the students ask the guests questions about reading and their favorite books but they were also able to participate in contests where they were asked questions about what the guests said. Those who gave the correct answers received books, product samples and other token gifts from the sponsors. Snacks and refreshments were also served to the students and guests at the end of the show.

The Eye Health & Safety Foundation also conducted free eye examinations during the ReadShows. Visine also put up a booth where promo girls dispensed eye-drop samples to mall goers.

In between the monthly ReadShows, smaller pocket events dubbed as Weekend Bookends were also held at Powerbooks branches. With the cooperation of Anvil Publishing, local authors were invited to talk about their books before an audience of selected guests and interested customers. The guests and customers got to have the books signed by the author and they even joined workshops in cases where the book that was the subject of the event was something educational or involved skills development.

ReadShow

Books for Public Schools

In lieu of any talent fees or honoraria, the guests at the ReadShows were given books for donation to a high school of their choice. These books, consisting mainly of the classics as well as reference books, came from book publishers associated with National Book Store and Powerbooks, including Harper Collins, Random House, Scholastic Books and Simon & Schuster. Books were also donated to the schools whose students attended the ReadShows.

Among the schools that have received the book donations so far are the Baguio City National High School in the Mountain Province, Jose Fabella Memorial High School School in Quezon City, Bonifacio Javier High School and Mandaluyong Science High School in Mandaluyong, Rizal High School in Pasig, Nolasco High School in Manila and the Muntinlupa Science High School and T. Paez High School in Muntinlupa.

The books for Sec. de Jesus have been earmarked for turnover to public schools in Buldon, Maguindanao, Mindanao while those for Manila Mayor Atienza are being distributed to the neediest high schools in the city.

Impact of Campaign

The great impact of the Read to Lead campaign may be gleaned from the wide media coverage it has received and the positive comments by various columnists who cited Visine for coming up with such a much-needed reading advocacy campaign. Such publicity mileage was achieved through distribution of press releases and through articles written by journalists invited to cover the ReadShows, as well as feature stories resulting from special interviews of the endorsers.

Visine's Read to Lead campaign has also generated high public awareness through the print and TV ads as well as the contests held by media partners Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin.

This is not to mention the extensive on-the-ground exposure obtained through promotions held and collaterals distributed at all the outlets of National Book Store, Powerbooks, Mercury Drug and Watsons. Through the ReadShows, the campaign was also able to reach and impart the message on the importance of reading to thousands of people in the various shopping malls who stopped and watched the ReadShows even for a while.

Due to the great impact and effectiveness of the campaign, Visine decided to extend the program for another year, and to do ReadShows outside Metro Manila including one in Cebu slated in the second quarter of 2003.

In choosing the Read to Lead campaign of Visine as Grand Anvil winner, the members of the board of judges have seen it fit to recognize Visine's and Pfizer's strong sense of corporate social responsibility and deep commitment not just to improving and maintaining the health of Filipinos but towards building strong leaders who will work for the development and progress of the country.

Tetrahydrozoline HCl
Visine

Pfizer
Life is our life's work

ADVT.

Pfizer Creates Partnerships for a Healthier Community through the Leaders for Health Project

Many problems plague the healthcare delivery system in the Philippines due to the fragmented way in which the different key players and the community think, feel and behave about health. Today, out of a population of close to 80 million people, 40% of Filipinos, especially those who live in far-flung areas have not seen a doctor in their lifetime.

A Holistic, Long-term Solution in Addressing Problems in Healthcare

Pfizer, in partnership with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business - Health Unit (AGSB) and the Department of Health (DOH), embarked on a long-term and holistic solution through the Leaders for Health Project (LHP). LHP aims to contribute towards the development of competent, professional and committed leaders who will provide strategic and effective leadership of the Philippine health sector at various levels. It seeks to change the mindset of people about health being not just the responsibility of a doctor but the broader community composed of other key stakeholders in health - the local government and the peoples' organizations.

For Pfizer, LHP was a way of applying and demonstrating its corporate values of Community and Leadership by providing concrete and sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by the Philippine healthcare sector.

Towards Building a Sustainable Health System

LHP builds on the initial successes of the Doctors To The Barrios Program (DTTB), where doctor volunteers are fielded to 5th or 6th class municipalities which are among the poorest areas which have remained doctorless. During their stay, the doctor volunteers would earn a Masters degree in Health Care Management from the AGSB. A separate but parallel track composed of Capacity Enhancement Workshops for mayors and local community leaders have also been developed that will provide them with the basic knowledge and skills necessary for building and strengthening a sustainable health system.

Other components of the project include the renovation of the DOH Doctor to the Barrios - Pfizer Training and Learning Center at the DOH Compound in Tayuman, Manila. The upgraded center was inaugurated in July 2002 and it now houses a virtual library and training facilities to give the doctors a venue to receive training, conduct research and communicate faster with various DOH offices.

With the framework in place, LHP got underway in July when volunteer doctors were deployed to the pilot sites in Camarines Sur, Western Samar, Biliran and Surigao del Norte. A "Salubungan" or symbolic coming together took place between the DOH, AGSB and Pfizer officials and the local government officials, the rural doctors and the constituents in two cities, - Surigao and Tacloban. The momentous event was attended by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Jr., Pfizer President and Country Manager Rey Gerardo Bacarro and AGSB Dean Alfredo Bengzon.

Shortly after, Capacity Enhancement Workshops were conducted for local government units in September in Cebu. In October, Orientation and Planning Workshops for Non-Government Organizations and People's Organizations were held in Siargao Island. More recently, integrated capacity enhancement workshops were conducted in Tacloban and Butuan City where strategic healthcare plans were mapped out for each municipality.

To date, the LHP has benefited 30 municipalities in four of the poorest provinces in the country — Surigao del Norte, Biliran, Western Samar and Camarines Sur. The volunteer doctors have been serving 50-80 people a day while receiving healthcare management skills and continuing medical education. Hundreds of local government officials and community leaders have participated in capacity enhancement workshops and orientation and planning workshops.

Generating Awareness and Support

To create awareness and support for the project among the general public, advertisements were placed in leading broadsheets. A special newsletter, Healthlink, was published to keep the project partners as well as government, media and relevant organizations abreast of developments.

Press releases were distributed on the milestones of the project. Pfizer also invited both print and TV media to the towns where LHP was being piloted to observe and interview key participants in the project. All these have resulted in LHP receiving extensive and positive exposure in the press, including front-page articles and favorable comments by several leading columnists.

Through the Leaders for Health Project, Pfizer was able to further strengthen its partnership with the DOH and its various agencies and regional offices, local government units as well as with various development-oriented NGOs.

The multi-million Leaders for Health Project was made possible through a peso-for-peso matching by Pfizer Foundation in New York.

Indeed, LHP was a big step forward in the Philippines in pursuing Pfizer's worldwide effort to create partnerships for a healthier world.

Leaders
for Health
Project

Pfizer

2002 Anvil Award of Merit

Visine's Read to Lead – A Reading Advocacy Campaign from Pfizer

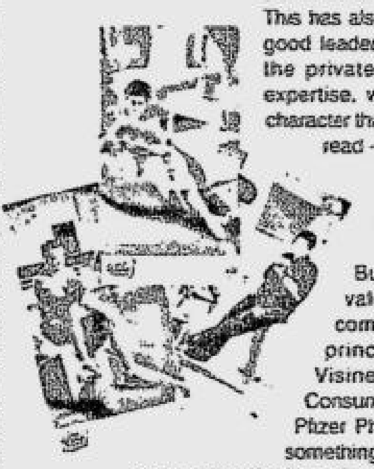
Campaign Exhorts Young to Read More, Learn Much and Lead Country Well

ReadShow

There is no question that reading helps people gain knowledge, learn new skills, imbibe positive values and develop character that could help turn them into competent, well-rounded and morally upright leaders.

Unfortunately, recent studies show that Filipinos, especially the young, have been reading less these days. They would rather spend their time in trivial and unproductive pursuits like watching TV or movies, playing games on their computers, exchanging text messages on their cell phones, or going "malling" in one of Metro Manila's many shopping centers – doing anything but read.

Because of this, the younger Filipinos have become less literate, less able to communicate well verbally or in writing, and generally less capable than they would have been if they read more. This has also resulted in a dearth of good leaders in government and in the private sector who have the expertise, wisdom and strength of character that comes from being well-read – leaders who could have helped our country progress and prosper faster than it has.



Building on Pfizer's core values of concern for the community, innovation and principled leadership, the Visine product line of the Consumer Healthcare Division of Pfizer Philippines decided to do something to arrest and hopefully reverse the decline of reading in the country. It decided to launch a reading advocacy campaign designed to encourage Filipinos especially the youth to read more. It dubbed the campaign "Read to Lead", a short, catchy tag line that says it all, that gets the message across on the value and benefits of reading as succinctly as possible.

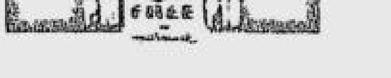
Partnerships – Key to a Successful Campaign

Visine called on its PR agency, Perceptions, its advertising agency, Jimenez D'Arcy, and its media buying agency, Mindshare, to put together and implement an integrated campaign involving getting the right endorsers and partners, organizing special promotions and contests with these partners, producing the campaign logo, print and TV ads and various collaterals for the campaign, and, at the core of it all, holding a monthly event promoting reading held at the country's leading shopping malls.

As endorsers of the campaign, three young celebrities were chosen– Youth Commissioner & Breakfast TV talk show host Bam Aquino, writer and model Lexi Schulze and basketball star and philanthropist Vince Hizon. The three proved to be ideal endorsers for the campaign because they serve as role models for the youth with their already significant accomplishments in their respective fields at so young an age, their wholesome yet "with-it" image and – a common denominator – their love for reading.

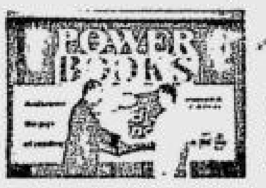
For partners, Visine, with the aid of Perceptions, was able to get the country's leading book store chain, National Book Store and its sister company, Powerbooks, as partners for the program. The two book retailers came up with monthly Read to Lead recommended titles. For every purchase of a book in the list, customers got a free Visine. Special shopping bags and bookmarks were also produced and distributed to customers with the Read to Lead logo imprinted on them. Because of the strong retail positioning of the two bookstore partners, exposure and awareness regarding the reading campaign reached unprecedented heights among the general public and key opinion leaders.

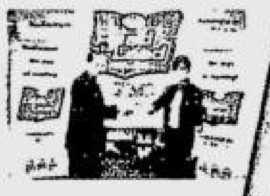
Visine Refresh



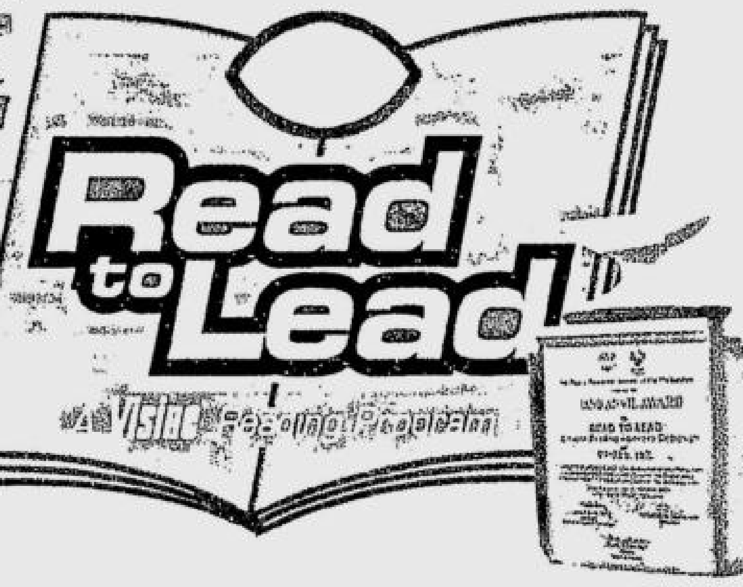
In addition to partnering with the bookstores, Visine also conducted sales promotions at the outlets of Mercury Drug Store and Watsons, two of the country's leading drugstore chains. When one buys Visine at any of the two outlets, the buyer receives a free gift from National Book Store or a special Read to Lead bookmark.

Tetrahydrozoline HCl
Read to Lead
Power Books



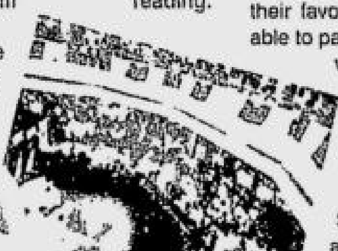


To broaden the scope and impact of the campaign Visine also teamed up with two of the country's leading newspapers, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin, in running contests that promote reading. In the case of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and in cooperation with National Book Store, the contest was in the form of a photo contest dubbed "Look Who's Reading" where readers were asked to submit a photo of a subject reading in an unusual setting. The Manila Bulletin, on the other hand, with the support of Powerbooks this time, conducted an essay-writing contest entitled "Why Read?" on the benefits one derives from reading.



2002 Grand Anvil Award

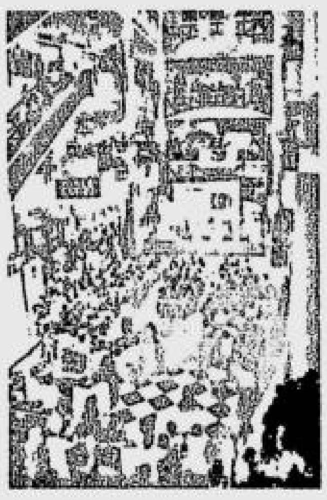
Providing a big boost to the campaign was getting the endorsement and support of the Reading Association of the Philippines, local affiliate of the International Reading Association, which promotes reading around the world. The Eye Health and Safety Foundation, an agency of the Department of Health mandated to promote proper eye care to facilitate better reading and learning, also gave its support to the program.



Reaching the Youth: ReadShows at the Malls

The campaign was formally launched in September 2002 with the publication of full-page, full-color print ads showing Aquino, Schulze and Hizon reading while taking a break from their usual activities. TV commercials were aired at the same time showing the three endorsers. Posters of the print ads were also produced and distributed to schools nationwide.

The ReadShows, which provided the focal point and anchor of the whole campaign, also started during that month with the first one being held at Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas Center. Done in TV talk show format and hosted by Aquino and Schulze with Hizon guesting from time to time, other ReadShows followed at Robinson's Place Manila, Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa and SM Megamall again at Ortigas Center.



During the ReadShows, prominent personalities who have attained leadership positions in the government and the private sector such as Senator Manny Villar, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza were interviewed on why they value reading, what their favorite books are and how these books have helped them succeed in their lives and careers.

Selected entertainers known to be avid readers have also guested in the ReadShows such as Jim Paredes of the Apo Hiking Society, Luisito Pascua also known as "Kuya Bodjie" of "Batibot" and "Epol/ Apple" TV kid shows fame, TV host and former beauty queen Zorah Andam and popular young radio deejay and band leader Mondo Castro and his band "The Pin-Up Girls". In the case of Castro and his band, they also performed numbers to entertain the audience.

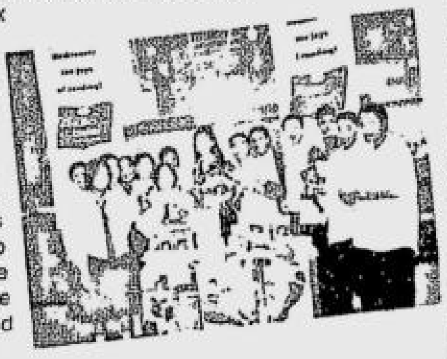
To serve as audience for the ReadShows, students from public high schools near the shopping malls where the event was being held were invited, along with their teachers. Not only did the students ask the guests questions about reading and their favorite books but they were also able to participate in contests where they were asked questions about what the guests said. Those who gave the correct answers received books, product samples and other token gifts from the sponsors. Snacks and refreshments were also served to the students and guests at the end of the show.

The Eye Health & Safety Foundation also conducted free eye examinations during the ReadShows. Visine also put up a booth where promo girls dispensed eye-drop samples to mall goers.

In between the monthly ReadShows, smaller pocket events dubbed as Weekend Bookends were also held at Powerbooks branches. With the cooperation of Anvil Publishing, local authors were invited to talk about their books before an audience of selected guests and interested customers. The guests and customers got to have the books signed by the author and they even joined workshops in cases where the book that was the subject of the event was something educational or involved skills development.

Books for Public Schools

In lieu of any talent fees or honoraria, the guests at the ReadShows were given books for donation to a high school of their choice. These books, consisting mainly of the classics as well as reference books, came from book publishers associated with National Book Store and Powerbooks, including Harper Collins Random House, Scholastic Books and Simon & Schuster Books were also donated to the schools whose students attended the ReadShows.

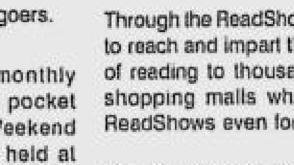


Among the schools that have received the book donations so far are the Baguio City National High School in the Mountain Province, Jose Fabella Memorial High School School in Quezon City, Bonifacio Javier High School and Mandaluyong Science High School in Mandaluyong, Rizal High School in Pasig, Nolasco High School in Manila and the Muntinlupa Science High School and T. Paez High School in Muntinlupa.

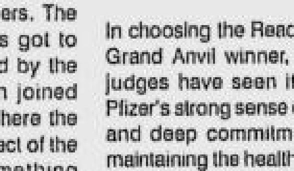
The books for Sec. de Jesus have been earmarked for turnover to public schools in Buldon, Maguindanao, Mindanao while those for Manila Mayor Atienza are being distributed to the neediest high schools in the city.

Impact of Campaign

The great impact of the Read to Lead campaign may be gleaned from the wide media coverage it has received and the positive comments by various columnists who cited Visine for coming up with such a much-needed reading advocacy campaign. Such publicity mileage was achieved through distribution of press releases and through articles written by journalists invited to cover the ReadShows, as well as feature stories resulting from special interviews of the endorsers.



Visine's Read to Lead campaign has also generated high public awareness through the print and TV ads as well as the contests held by media partners Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin.



This is not to mention the extensive on-the-ground exposure obtained through promotions held and collaterals distributed at all the outlets of National Book Store, Powerbooks, Mercury Drug and Watsons. Through the ReadShows, the campaign was also able to reach and impart the message on the importance of reading to thousands of people in the various shopping malls who stopped and watched the ReadShows even for a while.

Due to the great impact and effectiveness of the campaign, Visine decided to extend the program for another year, and to do ReadShows outside Metro Manila including one in Cebu slated in the second quarter of 2003.

In choosing the Read to Lead campaign of Visine as Grand Anvil winner, the members of the board of judges have seen it fit to recognize Visine's and Pfizer's strong sense of corporate social responsibility and deep commitment not just to improving and maintaining the health of Filipinos but towards building strong leaders who will work for the development and progress of the country.

Tetrahydrozoline HCl
Visine

Pfizer

ADVT.